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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Reader,	1
Should Hogs Run at Large,	1
Report on the Trial of Plows,	2
Ill-flavored Honey,	2
Farm Gates,	2
Shares' Coulter Harrow,	2
Corn and Pork,	2
Holstein Cow "Texelaeer,"	3
Cotton in Northern Missouri,	4
Agricultural and Mechanical College,	4
Experiment with Potatoes,	4
Roads,	4
Answers to Correspondents,	5
Thumps,	5
Weaning Colts,	5

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Meeting of the Kansas Horticultural Society,	6
How to Keep Apples,	6
Keeping Bulbs and Tubers Through Winter,	7
Winter Apples for Market,	7
From Southern Indiana,	7
Tender Roses, to grow and keep,	7
The Lima Bean,	7
Larkspurs,	8
Growing Fruit Trees in Grass,	8

THE VINEYARD.

Grape Culture,	8
Wants in Grape Culture,	9
When to Cut Stakes,	9

EDITORS' TABLE.

Lectures at Ill. Industrial University; Notices, &c.	9
The Weather,	9

HOME CIRCLE.

The Children,	10
Our Ancestors,	10
Bookless Houses,	10
Dipping Charles Lamb,	10
Velocipeding in France,	11
The November Star Shower,	11
Heating School Houses,	12
A Horse in Battle,	12
Inducements to Immigrants,	12
News and Markets,	16

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Farm for sale in Benton Co., Mo.; Wanted—
Wine, E. A. Thompson; Knox's Seeds, W. W.
Knox; To the Seed Trade, J. M. Thorburn &
Co.; Vegetable and Farm Seeds, J. M. Thor-
burn & Co.; Apple Seed, S. G. Minkler; Apple
Grafts, Dr. John E. Ennis & Co.; Garden,
Flower and Tree Seeds, B. M. Watson; Floral
Guide and Seed Catalogue, W. H. Lyman;

TO THE READER.

The accession of new subscribers has been
so great, and we may say, so unexpected, that
we have been unable to prepare our mailing
list for the new year and volume; consequently,
we send this, the first number of the *RURAL
WORLD* for 1869, to all, whether they have yet
renewed their subscriptions or not. By next
week's mailing day we hope to be able to put
on enough force to have our mailing books
complete for those who have paid for the new
year.

This, then, will positively be the last number
to those who have not paid for 1869. If these
lines meet the eye of any who have not yet
renewed their subscription, we hope it will
induce them to give this matter immediate at-
tention; and, while remitting for themselves,
influence some of their neighbors to join them.

We intend our journal shall be worth many
dollars to every person who reads it. It will
not only give him practical knowledge in the
profession of farming, but we hope its contents
will be of such a nature as to refine and elevate
every member of the household. Its object will
be to improve the head and heart, and to incul-
cate a love for the beautiful in Nature and Art.
It will strive to foster a taste for rural im-
provement and adornment, and to elevate and
beautify Home surroundings. No theme relat-
ing to Rural life will be neglected. There are a
hundred and fifty thousand farmers in the West
who should be readers of the *Rural World*; and,
if our life is spared, we shall not cease our
earnest labors until that number of readers
shall weekly peruse its pages.

We ask all our friends to unite with us in
our efforts to disseminate valuable agricultural
information among the people. Hundreds of
earnest friends are at work, but thousands more
might be, with great benefit to all concerned.

The *Zanesville Times* says: The scarcity of
fodder has caused quite a panic among our
farmers and wool-growers, the consequence being
to create a general desire with them to dispose
of their flocks as fast as possible. We have
heard of a lot of a hundred being offered at fif-
teen cents per head, the seller to retain the pelt.
Our market is filled with mutton at such re-
markable low figures as almost to induce one
to become a constant lover of the article.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

Should Hogs Run At Large?

It is a matter of much importance to the
farmer, whether hogs are permitted to run at
large, or whether they should be restrained by
law to tight enclosures.

It is especially a vital question to the farmer
who lives out some distance on the prairie,
where he has to draw his fencing material
from three to five miles, or more. To fence
against hogs and sheep increases the expenses
of fencing at least one-third more than would
be to fence against all other stock. The
amount of money required to fence the improved
lands of the State, or United States, is an
immense sum—more than any one would ex-
pect without making an estimate.

By taking census reports and statistics of
1860, and adding the relative increase, up to
this time, at one dollar per rod, it would cost
one hundred millions of dollars to make good,
substantial fences, for the State of Missouri;
besides an annual expense of ten per cent. on
that sum for repairs.

As before remarked, at least one-fourth of
this sum, or \$25,000,000, is for keeping out
hogs, or attempting to do. But, withal,
there are but few farms that escape the dep-
redations committed upon crops by hogs run-
ning at large—which in many cases amounts
to a damage sufficient to pay for the hogs.

Farmers are feeling and talking much upon
this subject in different parts of the State.—
Cannot proper steps be taken to bring this
matter before our present Legislature, and
have laws for Missouri similar to those of Illi-
nois and other prairie States? Let us hear
from the farmers on this subject. BUCKEYE.
Windsor, Mo., Dec., 15th, 1868.

THE UNIVERSAL HAY PITCHER.—Our readers
have doubtless ere this noticed that we offer
as a premium to club agents, *Louden's Univer-
sal Hay Pitcher*. We have seen these pullies
and carriers in operation at the Illinois State
Fair, and can vouch for their simplicity, effi-
ciency and strength. Any of the patent hay
forks may be attached. They can be used as
well in the field as in the barn, and will carry
hay to any part of the mow or stack. Who
will be the first to win a Hay Pitcher? Only
fifteen names required. Send them along!

Report on the Trial of Plows.

(Held at Utica, by the New York State Agricultural Society, September, 1867.)

Through the kind consideration of Col. B. P. Johnson, the indefatigable Secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, we were supplied with this report. While we have always esteemed Col. Johnson's reports as models, both in conception and detail, we place this as the most valuable that has ever emanated from his hands.

It takes up, illustrates, supplies facts, figures and details on every point connected with the plow. It should be labeled the "farmer's complete guide to the plow."

No greater boon could be conferred on the country than putting a copy into the hands of every farmer in the land.

We cannot enter into the details, for that would be to copy the entire book. We can but notice some of the subjects treated:

"The history of the plow"—ancient and modern; "the objects to be accomplished by plowing."

The true positions of the plow and harrow are clearly defined. "Practical questions" that must be studied by every one who uses a plow understandingly, are here most fully and pertinently stated.

The question of the comparative merit of the *swing* and *wheel* plows examined, and this conclusion come to: "that the claims of the advocates of 'swing' plows are mostly invalid, while those of the friends of the 'wheel' plow are shown to be founded in reason and experience." Of course this infers that the land is clear of stumps, &c.

The article on "yoking" the team is complete; and in the remarks on "workmen" we most fully coincide. After noticing the effect of the touch of the workman on the plow, and the necessity of its complete adjustment to the conditions of the work, the report says: "Seeing these facts brought out so clearly before our eyes, it was cause of deep regret to us that the race of finished plowmen was rapidly running out in the State of New York." How much is it to be lamented that there is no pride in the plow.

The Report of the Special Committee on the trials, is brimful of facts. The vast amount of intelligence, industry, and calculation united to actual practical acquaintance with the whole subject, exhibited by the judges, tell us it was men and not complimentary names that were so wisely chosen to accomplish this important task. So may it ever be. To that committee the world is deeply indebted.

We have to thank Col. Johnson for a private copy, which we found necessary to have as a book of reference in our private collection. It has to fill a sphere of usefulness at home.

W. M.

The wool crop of New York State is about 17,000,000 pounds, which is principally grown in Washington, Rensselaer, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario and Steuben counties—the first named leading off with 700,000 lbs.

All wrinkled peas, says an exchange, are more delicate than those that are full and perfect in form; like sugar corn, the saccharine matter contained in them, causes them to shrivel when dried.

ILL-FLAVORED HONEY.

My bees did nothing all the season, till late in the fall when the sunflowers were in full bloom. Then they commenced storing honey in great quantities. They gathered from fifty to eighty pounds, per stand, in two weeks. Some of them filled all their surplus honey boxes, and when I took some of the honey for eating, I found it tasted as the sun-flowers smell. It is scarcely fit for table use. There are hundreds of acres of these flowers growing here.

Now what I want to get at, is for some bee-keeper to let me know through the *Bee Journal*, whether bees will work in a prosperous season on flowers yielding distasteful honey?

H. FAUL, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

We presume that the sunflower here referred to is one of the numerous varieties of wild aster—probably the *A. sericeus* or the *A. sagittifolius*; though we do not know that either of these blooms so late in the season. We have no knowledge of the honey producing qualities of these, nor of any except the New England aster; but suppose that bees will gather from the blossoms of the variety complained of every fall, if honey is secreted by them.—[*Am. Bee Journal*.]

REMARKS—Here is another sample of the utter inutility of common names in the description of plants, insects, &c. We have found in the several states the *Chrysopsis*—*Silphium*—*Helianthus*—*Coreopsis*—*Bidens* and *Helevium*; all called sunflower. Which of these is meant, we cannot say. Bees work well on *Helianthus Annuus* and produce fair honey. In some parts of our State they neglect buckwheat for the *Bidens* or Spanish needle. In both the *Helianthus* and *Silphium* the honey has more or less of a resinous taste. It is well known that "bees will work in a prosperous season on flowers yielding distasteful honey" (to us), and they even work upon the blossoms that produce stupefying or poisonous honey.

As the bee makes its honey to suit itself there is little cause of wonder and no cause for complaint if the flavor does not always suit our palate. We know that bees feed on much that we do not relish.

W. M.

Making Farm Gates.

Field work usually takes so much of the farmer's time and attention in the warmer portion of the year that but very little thought is given to the small "carpentering jobs," and unless farm gates are made up during winter the premises are very likely to be poorly supplied with convenient pass-ways from one field to another.

If the gates are made up at this season they are ready to hang when spring comes, and the frost is sufficiently out of the ground to admit of setting posts. To make them, requires but very little mechanical skill; the most essential point is, to construct them so they will not sag upon the posts. A gate as commonly made will sag of itself, let the post be ever so firm.

A very good gate may be made as follows:—Take two pieces of three by four scantling, one piece four or five feet long, according to the height of the fence, and the other twice the length of the first, then let the boards into the uprights their thickness, and before nailing them, dove-tail a brace into the notches already cut, running from the top of the latch end to the bottom of the hinge end. This brace can be made of a three-fourth strip of board, and should be about four inches wide. After putting the gate together put on battens and nail them firmly to the scantling; also nail battens in the center, and for these wrought nails should be used.

To give support, a three-eighth rod of iron

should be fastened at the top of the hinge scantling and extend down to and pass through the top of the latch end, with a nut upon the end so that the rod may be drawn tight. After tightening up, cut the end of the rod off even with the nut.

Another way, and one constructed with less expense, is to dove-tail the brace from the lower end of the front to the top of the hinge scantling, nailing firmly where the brace crosses the boards with wrought nails. This dispenses with the use of the rod, but does not look as well for a road gate.

Set the post upon which the gate is to hang firmly in the ground, and let it extend a foot further above the earth than the hinge scantling is long. Use solid hinges, and put them on about fifteen inches from the ends of the long gate bar.

Gates made after the foregoing directions are not new or uncommon, but are just as durable and cheap, for all that.—*Ohio Farmer*.

Shares' Coulter Harrow.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I would like to enquire of your readers if any of them have used Shares' Coulter Harrow? If so, will they tell us through the columns of the *Rural World* what its good points are?

Of all the tools used on a farm, our harrows, as a class, are the poorest. The Scotch, forty-four tooth, we use mostly in Illinois. It pulls hard and does very little work in killing weeds or loosening up ground that has had a heavy rain on it after plowing. Then, again, sod ground cannot be put in good order with them. They tear up sods in some places; in others they run over it and leave no loose dirt—a grain drill will leave ground in better order, with once going over it, than will a harrow in twice, besides drawing easier.

Shares' harrow looks as though it would do the work thoroughly, and also as if it would make a fine thing for harrowing corn. Who can tell us from experience? H.

CORN AND PORK.—From carefully conducted experiments by different persons, it has been ascertained that one bushel of corn will make a little over 10½ pounds of pork—gross. Taking this result as a basis, the following deductions are made, which all farmers would do well to lay by for a convenient reference—thus:

When corn sells for 12½ cents per bushel, pork costs 1½ cents per pound.

When corn costs 17 cents per bushel, pork costs 2 cents per pound.

When corn costs 25 cents per bushel, pork costs 3 cents per pound.

When corn costs 33 cents per bushel, pork costs 4 cents per pound.

When corn costs 45 cents per bushel, pork costs 5 cents per pound.

The following statement shows what the farmer realizes in corn, when sold in the form of pork:

When pork sells for 3 cents per pound, it brings 25 cents per bushel in corn.

When pork sells for 4 cents per pound it brings 33 cents per bushel in corn.

When pork sells for five cents per pound it brings 45 cents per bushel in corn.

It is well known by butter-makers that the cream which first rises on milk, makes nicer butter than that which rises after standing a long time. It is said that the milk that makes the butter that Queen Victoria eats is skimmed twice, and twelve hours afterwards it is churned.

It is said that the Brazilian Government has offered a reward of \$8,000 in gold, to the inventor of any practicable mode of preserving beef for exportation.

HOLSTEIN COW "TEXELAAR."

"Holstein" or "Dutch" Cow, imported and owned by Winthrop W. Chenery, "Highland Stock Farm," Belmont, Middlesex Co., Mass.

"Texelaar" won the first premium, in her class, at the fair of the Middlesex Agricultural Society in 1864; and at the New England Agricultural Society's show in 1865 she won the Sweepstakes and Silver Medal.

Texelaar is the dam of the bull "Van Tromp," winner of the New England Society's Silver Medal (Sweepstakes) in

1865, and first premium in 1866, 1867 and 1868; and whose weight, at six years old, was 2720 pounds—Texelaar's weight is 1560 pounds.

The following extract, from a sketch of the Dutch Cattle, by Mr. Chenery, will afford a correct idea of the extraordinary milking properties of these cows:

"The milking quality of this race of cows is well illustrated in the record of the imported cow Texelaar (see portrait). This cow was tested when only six years old, and therefore before having arrived at full maturity. She dropped a heifer calf on the 15th of May, which at birth weighed 101 pounds; and, from the 26th of May to the 27th of July, a period of nine weeks, a careful and exact record, of the milk produced by her, was kept, showing a result of 4018 pounds 14 oz. Her largest yield in one day was 76 lbs. 5 ozs. (35½ quarts), and in ten days she gave 744 lbs. 12 ozs., or an average of 74 47-100 lbs. per day. She continued to give a large flow of milk throughout the season, and was milked up to the 24th day of May following, and on the 25th dropped twin heifer calves, which weighed, at birth, 155 lbs.; and, notwithstanding the large quantity of milk produced, the quality is very superior, as shown by the statement of Prof. A. A. Hayes, Massachusetts State Assayer, who was employed to make chemical analyses of the milk of the four imported cows, and who stated that the Texelaar's milk afforded, after long repose, 22 and

72-100 per cent. of cream, in vessels specially adapted to measuring it 'xx'; and, as the analysis shows, and experience has proved this milk to be specially adapted to making cheese; and as cheese making has become one of the most important agricultural interests in this country, and cheese factories are multiplying in various localities—it may be well to consider the comparative value of the Dutch cows for that specialty. In this view, reference is made to a statement translated from a paper received at the Department of Agriculture, Washington, from the Royal Academy of Agriculture, Prussia, written by Dr. Rhode-Eldena, from which valuable information is obtained in relation to the extraordinary milking qualities of pure Dutch cows. The herd described consisted of 36 cows, and in 1865 a record of nine superior, pure bred Dutch cows, was kept, showing a yield, respectively, of 4960 qts., 4710 qts., 4620 qts., 4490 qts., 4365 qts., 4800 qts., 5016 qts., 5009 qts. and 4900 qts., or an annual average product of more than 4,700 quarts of milk from each cow. In the translation it is not stated whether the quarts were beer or wine measure; but, supposing it to be the smallest measure, and lowest estimate of 2 1-6 pounds to the quart, the annual yield of the nine cows will be found to be 92,885 pounds of milk; or, if made into cheese—allowing 9½ pounds of milk to one pound of cheese, as made at the New England and New York cheese factories—we

have the astonishing result of 9,777.36 pounds, or an average of over 1,086 pounds of cheese annually from each cow, while the maximum yield of the best cow would be 1,144 pounds.

In passing, it may be said that the above statement should furnish food for thought to the cheese dairymen of this country, who have heretofore, seemingly, been contented with an average annual yield of about 300 pounds of cheese to the cow, as shown by the reports of the various cheese factories; and, as experience has abundantly proved that the progeny of the Dutch bulls, when bred to native or other breeds of cows, invariably inherit the leading characteristics of the Dutch race—may it not be a question for the consideration of the town authorities, as well as individuals—in localities where cheese making is the leading interest—whether the introduction of Dutch bulls at the public expense, would not result in public benefit." He "claims the Holstein or Dutch race to be capable of producing milch cows that will yield more than an average quantity of butter, and incomparably more milk, specially adapted to family use as well as for cheese making, than any other breed; working oxen as large, strong and symmetrical as the Short-horn, and at the same time as hardy, spirited, intelligent and tractable, as the Devon; and withal being good feeders and having great aptitude to fatten—well adapted to the shambles. In fine, it is claimed that they possess a better combination of properties than found in any other race or breed of cattle."

In *Echoes from Cornwall* is a "Legend of the Hive," commencing—

Behold those winged images!

Bound for their evening bowers;

They are nation of the bees,

Born from the breath of flowers;

Strange people are they; a mystic race

In life, and food, and dwelling-place!

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—There are already collected at the Agricultural Department Washington, some 3,000 samples of native and foreign cereals and vegetable seeds.

The distribution of plants from the experimental garden during the past year embraced some 30,000 plants; also many thousands of scions and cuttings of fruit trees have been disseminated.

The total number of packages and papers of seeds distributed was 592,398, including 32,127

sacks of winter wheat. The following exhibits the disposition: To members of Congress 223,672 packages; to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, 98,861; to Statistical Correspondents, 86,391; to individuals, on application, 183,474.

There have been expended by the present Commissioner since December 4, 1867, the date of his entry upon the duties of Commissioner, \$217,400, leaving a balance unexpended of \$103,600 for the balance of the year ending June 30.

COTTON IN NORTHERN MISSOURI

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I have just finished ginning my crop of cotton—do not laugh—a nice little patch—a trial crop, and the returns are more satisfactory than I could have expected, had I listened to the discouraging accounts of the "can't" family, who here, as elsewhere, have got a foothold.

It is true I planted only on an experimental scale (a poor man is hardly justified in making extensive experiments); but my little patch has yielded an average of three pounds and two ounces of ginned cotton to the square rod, at three pickings, which amounts to 500 pounds to the acre; this, at 20 cents per pound, brings the interesting sum of one hundred dollars per acre.

I do not mention this as anything wonderful, as I dare say, others, no farther South, have done as well—very likely better; but I think these figures will compare favorably with those of the same amount of land in tobacco: taking the risk to be run, and the difference in cost of culture and preparation for market into consideration, the odds are in favor of cotton.

I think cotton can be profitably cultivated much farther North than people generally suppose—i. e., as high as latitude 40°, any where in Missouri, Illinois, or Eastern Kansas, in favorable locations—on uplands with a southerly, or south-easterly exposure, allowing other circumstances to be as favorable to it, as to insure a good crop of Kentucky white corn.

Our latitude here is 39°.45'. The soil on which I planted, is upland—clayey. Time of planting May 9th, after which it received the usual care bestowed on other hoed crops.

I intend planting on a much more extensive scale another year, and I shall duly report progress.

I would like to hear the opinions of any who have had more experience with this crop, together with any practical hints in regard to the soil and mode of culture—which experience may have proved to be the best adapted to its successful cultivation.

Lastly, but not "leastly," Mr. Editor, I enclose \$2, for your valuable paper another year.

A. H. SMITH.

Macon county, Mo., Dec. 13th, 1868.

Agricultural and Mechanical College.

MR. C. W. MURTFELDT: I notice in the *Rural World*, of Nov. 21st, an item concerning "Agricultural Colleges," and some remarks as to Missouri Agricultural lands, and as I believe you are a member of the Board of Agriculture, I take the liberty of writing to you at this time.

I notice in the Land Office Report, for 1865, that the list of lands approved to the States, gives to Missouri 4,604,448.75 acres, and that 2,643,053.04 acres had been patented to the State, under Acts of Congress, approved Sept. 28th, 1850, and March 12th, 1860. Will you be so good as to inform me if the whole of this, or what part, is intended for Agricultural College purposes? and, how much has been located for that purpose? Also, if any moves have been made towards putting the College and Farm in operation? If so, what progress has been made? Although a new comer, I feel an interest in this matter. Illinois has her Agricultural College going, why cannot Missouri do as well? Your reply will much oblige, Yours truly,

W. T. HOLLISTER.

Newark, Mo., Dec. 17, 1868.

In reply to your inquiry above we can only reiterate what has been stated already, that is: Missouri received, by what is known as the Agricultural College Land Grant, 330,000 acres. This amount has been reduced somewhat by the Commissioners accepting some of the railroad lands, being in alternate sections along the South Pacific road, where they had to take two acres for one.

If rightly informed we learn that there was a time, when Franklin county offered a considerable bonus to have the Agricultural College located in her limits, perhaps at Washington. We believe that to make the grant available something will have to be done soon, perhaps during the session of the next General Assembly. If it were at all possible, we would favor a separate and distinct college, but rather than to see such an institution linger and languish for a few years and then die a natural death, we would favor a plan giving it a connection with an existing institution; giving it two or three practical men as professors, and establishing a connected yet separate school. We can see advantages in such a plan, but whether they are enough to counter-balance the natural drawbacks we are not now prepared to say. C. W. M.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

EXPERIMENT WITH POTATOES.

CUTTING OFF THE BLOSSOMS.

Several years ago I had a young German working for me, who called my attention, at the time of the flowering of the potatoes, to the great number of blossoms, and told me that I would have a light crop of potatoes. Upon my asking him for his reasons, he said that he had heard old folks say, that "many flowers—few potatoes." I only remembered it as a singular remark, concluding it was one of the many wise old saws which "people say."

We have not, as yet, any of the new-fangled, ten-legged Colorado potato-bugs; but we have an old fashioned sort—a kind of blister-beetle (I haven't time to hunt up the scientific name), that feeds on the potato plant in a quiet sort of a way without usually doing much harm. This year they were just about numerous enough to cut the blossoms as fast as they appeared, seemingly thinking them the choice part, and attacking them first, so that but very few blossoms could be observed in the fields at any given time.

We had an unusually good yield of potatoes, but whether this destruction of blossoms had anything to do with producing the result, I will leave each one to judge for himself. Of course any inferences drawn from such facts as these, by themselves, must be only guesses and conjectures. But here is something which seems to be more definite. I translate from the French, the substance of some experiments made by some one—a Frenchman, I presume—and published in a French paper, in Louisiana:

"I had, at one time, cut, here and there, the flowers of some potato stalks, and found at digging time an increased product of tubers, when compared with stalks not cut.

This result was in accordance with my reasoning, for the object of nature is solely the reproduction of seed. If the flower be cut, and

of course the seed-balls prevented from forming, the strength of the plant will go to the forming of tubers, augmenting the size, or increasing the number.

"My first success encouraged me to try again, I selected a piece of ground of uniform richness, and of sufficient size to make a fair trial. This I planted with one variety, "a long potato with a reddish skin, and yellow inside. [One would infer from the description that it was a coarse kind of potato, and, which I think, are more disposed to produce seed-balls than the finer sorts.] At the time of plowing, I cut the stalk, three or four inches below the blossom, leaving, here and there, two stalks in each of the rows with the stalks not cut.

"Early in October the plants which had had the flowers removed, were still of a bright green, whilst the others were yellow and dying.

"At the digging time, the hills, where the flowers had been cut, gave a much greater yield than those which had not been so treated, and also were noticeably of larger size. The same experiment was continued the next year, and with like result."

This is remarkable enough to make it worth while for those who have leisure, to pursue the investigation, and see if the same effects can be uniformly attained. Probably the difference would be more noticeable in some varieties than in others. JOSEPH WOOD.

Marietta, Ohio, Dec. 10th, 1868.

ROADS.

The following on Roads, is from G. C. Eisenmeyer, Esq., of Mascoutah Ills. The facts hinted at exist in many places, the suggestions are worthy of consideration:

"Allow me to call the attention of your readers to the fact, that our country roads are, in most cases, in a most deplorable condition, and that our road-law needs amending.

"I would, therefore, propose to lay before our next legislature an act for the better and cheaper repairing of our county and state roads, authorizing thereby, our county court, and all other county courts throughout the State that may adopt this law, to let out the entire road labor by contract to the lowest and best responsible bidder, under the supervision and control of the county court, as it is done in many of our older States.

"The making and repairing of our county roads under the present system is entirely inadequate to the demands of our times, as any person traveling over our State and county would find to their sorrow. If our county roads were let out under contract to the lowest responsible bidder, road improvements and repairs would soon become a regular business, and some man would be found in every locality who would do such work at suitable and proper times. The writer of this was hired to such a contractor as far back as 1839, in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and knows of the practical advantages of such a system. It is a rare thing now to find any person willing to act as supervisor, and when you find him, he is a farmer, and as such, always attends to his farm labors first, as a matter of course, and generally at times when the roads ought to be worked to an advantage. Farm labor, corn planting, wheat sowing, as it was the case this season, are of more importance, and hence the roads are neglected and remain unimproved.

"Most farmers in our county would prefer to pay their road labor in money, but those who do not wish to do so, could work it out with the contractor.

"It is high time that we begin to look to the farming interests of our county, and good public roads are certainly of great importance to that end."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I am very much pleased with your paper—regard it as THE best paper, of its class, in the country. I have a Missouri river bottom farm, well adapted to the raising of corn, and expect, in the future, to make hog-raising a specialty and would like to have a pair of pure Chester Whites: what can they be bought for, delivered on the cars at St. Louis? Are there any better than these? While on the "hog question," allow me to say that, although somewhat accustomed, in former years, to operations on the human system, I cannot but regard the operation of spaying as one of great cruelty, and would gladly avoid it if any other of less severity would answer the purpose. Do you know of any? I have heard it said that the introduction into the vaginal canal of a leaden bullet, by means of an ordinary elder pop-gun, would fulfil every indication—(I doubt this)—it might prevent impregnation, but this is not ALL that is required. The question is, will anything but the complete extirpation of the ovaries secure all the objects desired? J. McW.

REMARKS—We have often had sows spayed, and, when done by an experienced hand, it is not painful: viz: By making an incision on the side. We do not endorse the mode of hanging the hog up by the heels and operating through the belly. When done as above indicated, it is not near as painful as castration.

Will Dr. Detmers give us his method? Or any other practical man?

MR. NORMAN J. COLMAN: I happened to pick up one of your papers, the Rural World, and read a piece headed "Agricultural Text Books in Common Schools." I was much pleased, and concluded that paper was worth \$2, and the books I will have, if they ever come out. I have a farm of 100 acres; am putting out 4,000 standard apple trees, and such small fruit as will pay.

Wishing to contribute a little for my own information, as well as others, I will send something that has puzzled me and all I have shown it to—So, "if a man die, shall he live again?"—or, are we like these worms?

This grub is found in all the new soil, especially when planted in potatoes. W. B. P. Smith City, Mo.

ANSWER—By C. V. Riley, State Entomologist:—The grubs are dead specimens of the common White Grub, or larva of the May Beetle (*Leich. nocturna quereina*, Knoch). They look odd from the fact that they are attacked by a parasitic fungus, the two snout-like projections from each side of the head being nothing else. It is literally "a plant growing out of an insect," and under this heading it was spoken of on page 77 of the December number of the American Entomologist. From the January number of the same journal, we extract the following communication:

"There is a white mushroom known in the region in which I was raised (Virginia), as poisonous and fatal to the hogs that feed on it. I believe it is common in all localities in which I have been. In the spring of 1842 I observed, in what is called a 'new ground' in Virginia, a great quantity of these mushrooms, and in reply to some remark I made about them, some of my father's negroes, who were then making hills with hoes for planting tobacco, inquired of me if I knew what produced these mushrooms. On my replying in the negative, I was informed that they grew from the white grub worm. I think there were some twelve or fifteen negroes present, all of whom concurred in the statement, and said it was no new thing to them. They had no difficulty in establishing the truth of what they stated, because they dug them up in all their stages of germination and growth before my own eyes. In a very short time they had furnished me with a large number of the worms in their original shape, features and size, and as distinct to the eye as if they had been alive, but having the consistency, color and smell of a mushroom; and I actually broke them up, just as a mushroom breaks in one's hands, snapping them crosswise and squarely off. Many others I found to be enlarged before germinating, and many just germinating, but with the shape of the worm preserved. And in some I noticed that the features of the worm were preserved in the root, even after the mushroom had grown up through

the earth and attained some size. I gathered a good many specimens in their various stages into my handkerchief, and carried them to my father's house, where they lay on the mantle for some time. They seemed, however, to be no novelty to many to whom I exhibited them. In fact they were familiar to almost all who had opportunities of investigation, and to whom I mentioned them at the time."

The fungus on those grubs which you send, would, very probably, in time, produce the mushroom so graphically described in the above quotation.

LEANDER SMITH, V. S.—The gentleman whose name appears at the head, has addressed to us a letter on Texas Fever in cattle. In it he adopts the course of many of his brethren, and pitches into the vagaries and fallacious theories of the whole romancing brotherhood of veterinary surgeons. We have neither time, space nor inclination to accuse any one of our contributors of fallacies, but if Leander Smith, V. S., has a more correct view than any yet advanced, and will give it to the public, through the Rural World, our columns are open to him, or any other V. S. In the present letter we can see nothing that can be of any possible good to the general public. To say that a thing is true, or not true, does not make it so—we want, and must have, proof. Mr. Smith will therefore excuse us in not publishing his first letter.

MILK SICKNESS.—A communication from a subscriber gives the names of half a dozen counties in Illinois where, he asserts, milk sickness still prevails. He says that in a very dry season there is no danger from the disease, but if cattle are allowed to stand in the water they will get it. Remedy.—Feed freely of corn.

We are satisfied that the eating of a certain plant brings on the disease. We have given the whole theory in last volume. Remedy.—Keep the cows on tame grasses.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: 1. Whose are the best works on Floriculture? 2. Landscape Gardening? 3. Culture of Evergreens? Where can they be had—at what prices? 4. Will Landscape Gardening cover the laying off and ornamenting farm-house yards, &c? 5. Can grape vines be trimmed now without injury? D. C.

ANSWER—1. Breck's Book of Flowers. Buist & Rand also publish works.

2. M. G. Kern's "Landscape Gardening," Wilsch, Keys & Co., Cincinnati.

3. Josiah Hoopes, by O. Judd & Co.

4. Yes.

5. Yes, if the frost is out of the vine.

All of these works can be got in the best book stores.

COL. N. J. COLMAN: I would like to have some information about your State, that I suppose is in your power to give; and thinking you disposed to do anything you can to attract emigration into it, I have taken the liberty to request you to give the desired information.

I would like to know the prices of lands in the neighborhood of Sedalia, or some other flourishing town, suitable for stock raising. What amount of capital required? What stock pays best, and where to buy it? But I had better tell you how much I would have to invest, and then you can better tell me what I want to know. I will have about \$4,000 or \$5,000 to invest and live on till my farm, if I should buy one, yielded me something. I am at present engaged in the drug business, but want a business more out of doors, though I am not physically able to do much of the work myself. Please inform me in regard to labor: is it white, reliable and plenty? Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience. I am very respectfully yours, CHAS. M. OHARA.

Bolivar, Tenn., Dec. 21.

ANSWER—The lands near Sedalia are well adapted to grazing, but near the city sell for about \$50 per acre; a little farther from market the lands are cheaper. Along the North Missouri railroad, good unimproved lands along this route may be had at \$10 per acre. Labor is becoming more plenty, but near Sedalia and along the North Missouri road a good many negroes are still employed. The farther North you go, the less you will find of the colored population.

N. J. COLMAN: You will please advise where I can buy a pair of thorough-bred pigs, of the best breed? I want hogs that are hardy and grow quick, say will do to kill at 12 months old? Also, where I can buy a good Alderney milch cow? J. M. DURHAM. Hickman, Ky.

REMARKS—Such is a sample of letters coming to us by every mail. Why will not stock men let the public know what they have to sell?

J. R. K.—As a general rule we can only advise pruning fruit trees for fruit in June or July, and for wood in winter. An apple tree may be pruned moderately almost at any time. Some varieties will bear a moderate crop every year, while others yield a large crop alternate years. We never consult the moon, nor the zodiac, nor almanac as to the best time of pruning. We thank Mr. K. for his receipts and may publish them sometime.

THUMPS.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I notice in your issue of Nov. 28th, 1868, an enquiry from J. R. B. concerning thumps, and your answer—my opinion differs from yours, as I have known pigs, if not hogs, to die with that disease; and, as a breeder of swine, wish all the light I can get on the treatment of diseases of such stock; therefore repeat the questions of J. R. B., hoping to hear from those having experience: Is there any cure for thumps? If so, what is it? NATIVE.

We shall be glad to publish any communication on this subject.—[Eds.]

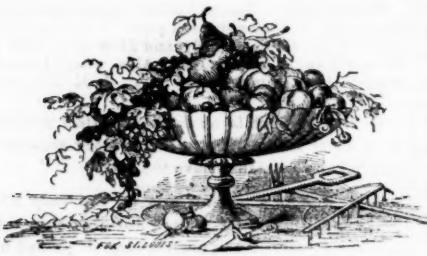
WEANING COLTS.

I put the colt in a good pasture, and if I can do so, I give some company that it is acquainted with. But, at any rate, I put the mare in the adjoining field; then they both feel as if they were not separated, and do not wear off any flesh by anxiety and running. And I take the mare in to the colt twice a day, for two or three days, and let it suck. After that, I let it suck once a day, for two or three days; then I let it suck every other day for two or three days; and, if necessary to dry up the mare, I will perhaps let it suck once or twice in the course of the next week. By that course the colt will get weaned and the mare will be dried up, and neither of them lose flesh or be punished, which is both to my interest and their mutual comfort.

Another subscriber writes:—

"In answer to the query respecting weaning colts, I beg to submit the following note. There are various ways in which they may be weaned. I think as good a way as any is to take them from the dam and tie them in a stable by themselves, with strong halters, and give them milk from the cow, which they will take the second or third time it is offered to them, if they get no water. You may give them milk and water as suits. Afterwards, give a few oats, and all the hay or green clover they can eat, when it can be got. At the end of seven or eight days, lead them out to the field at noon, and take them in at night (there must be good fences to keep them in). By doing so, you will soon have them to lead like old horses."—Ex.

EARLY ROSE POTATO.—This potato is supposed to be the earliest large variety at present known, although there may be others equally as good in this respect, but they have not been generally disseminated. The general characters may be summed up as follows: Very early, and large; skin smooth, of a pale rose color, almost white when fully matured; the eyes prominent, not deeply sunken as in many of the older varieties; form long, oval, slightly compressed; flesh snow-white, and very dry and mealy, without any strong flavor as found in some of the large late varieties; it is also very productive, and the tubers keep well and retain their good qualities until spring, and in this respect the Early Rose is far superior to the Early Goodrich.—*New York Sun*.



HORTICULTURAL.

Meeting of the Kansas Horticultural Society.

The Kansas State Horticultural Society met at Leavenworth, on the 15th inst. Owing to conflicting notices from the President and Corresponding Secretary, part of the members had started on the 8th of the month, expecting that the meeting would take place on the 2d Tuesday, as ordered by the Society on its adjournment last year. Those who started were overtaken by the late severe snow storm and cold, and did not arrive until the 11th, and then had to face the disappointment of no meeting. In consequence of all this the members present were fewer than would otherwise have been the case. There was, however, a good attendance, and the interest was well sustained to the very last. W. C. Tanner, the worthy President, called the Society to order late in the morning, on the 15th, and delivered his Annual Address. He spoke feelingly and sensibly on the pleasing science of Horticulture, and felt proud to claim so many horticultural advantages for lovely Kansas, "possessing a soil of unequalled fertility, a climate temperate and genial, with skies balmy as those of Italy, rendering it healthful for man, and successful to the various productions of fruit."

Mr. Tanner believes in the superiority of Kansas fruits, in point of beauty and quality, over those of the Middle States, and thinks that an exhibition of those fruits at the National Pomological Congress, would bring many of the best horticulturists to the State of Kansas. The President also advocated a home exhibition, in which, no doubt, the important aid of the ladies would be had, especially, in the Botanical and Floral departments, and he advised, also, for this home exhibition, the offers of liberal premiums. He also counsels action on the part of the Society to memorialize the State Legislature, for the appointment of a competent State Entomologist. Finally, President Tanner advised great care in the raising and making up the several fruit lists for the State, as, by much care, hundreds of thousands of dollars might be saved to the State, in the enhanced value of the fruits produced. The address was brief, timely and to the point, and well received.

The Secretary, G. C. Bracket, then read his report, wherein he states that, as a general thing, the horticulturists of the State had not responded to his enquiries, but hopes that it was not because they underrated the magnitude of the work, they, as a class, were called upon to perform. The good Secretary, being evidently a very hopeful man, expects to be able to make

a much better report, as to the working members next time.

The Treasurer's report shows only a small membership, but as the expenses of the Society were also small, there was still a small balance, in cash, on hand. (Subsequently, Mr. Kelsey informed us that after the bills were paid he had increased the cash in hand \$1 50, which offered as *prima facie* evidence that the Society was growing.) *The Society has no debts*, which we wish might be the condition of all kindred associations.

The officers, for the ensuing year, are President, W. C. Tanner, Leavenworth; Vice President, C. B. Lines; Secretary, G. C. Bracket, of Lawrence; Treasurer, S. T. Kelsey, Ottawa.

The following are the varieties of apples recommended for general cultivation in Kansas: (We think the list a good one for Western Missouri.)

Summer—Carolina Red June, Early Harvest, Sweet June. *Autumn*—Maiden's Blush, Fameuse, Fall Wine, Rambo, Belmont, Dyer, Bailey Sweet. *Winter*—Pennsylvania Red Streak, Winter Swaar, Ortley, White Winter Pearmain, Winesap, Romanite, Rawles' Janet, Rome Beauty, Ben Davis, New Missouri—also called Missouri Keeper. This latter tree is represented as hardy, an early bearer, and the fruit as every way desirable, and a great keeper.

The *Jonathan* was voted down because of its showing spots of dry rot. The Willow Twig was added to the list.

The report of Committee on Pears only developed the fact that there was a general and entire failure of the crop throughout the State in 1868. The following list was recommended on the quince, or as dwarfs: Doyenne d'Ete, Rostiezer, Tyson, Belle Lucrative, Louise Bonne d' Jersey, Swan's Orange.

On the pear-root, as Standards, Bartlett, Flemish Beauty, Doyenne d'Ete and White Doyenne.

No regular report from the Committee on Small Fruits was made, there was, however, some talk on this subject, partaking of the conversational style, there is nothing of general interest to be embodied in our report.

Of grapes only two varieties were recommended for general cultivation, viz: Concord and Hartford Prolific. The amateur list embraces Iona, Delaware, Rogers' No. 1, Allen's Hybrid, Creveling, Diana, Israella, Rogers' No. 3. Wine List (general): Concord, Clinton. Amateur Wine List—Ives, Norton's Virginia, Catawba and Martha.

Of *Peaches* we make only one notice. Dr. Housely spoke of a peach raised in Kentucky, which he calls the *McCormick*, very similar to the Indian Peach, of Illinois, a *cling*, which never fails to re-produce itself from the seed, and for which the Dr. claims all the excellencies of a late peach.

The following resolution was offered and ably debated by Dr. Housely:

Resolved, "That it is the sense of this Association, that the manufacture and use of native wines tends to lower the morals of our people, and increase drunkenness, and we cannot therefore recommend the growing of grapes for wine purposes."

Dr. Stayman took the negative of the ques-

tion, but was most unfortunate in his argument, proving exactly what Dr. H. claimed, viz: That after the use of wine was indulged in for a little time, something stronger was desired.

On the vote being taken on the resolution, the motion was lost by a very decided majority.

Fruit—We found on the table some twenty varieties of very fine apples, embracing most of the sorts recommended in the list; they were highly colored and of superior flavor, and at least equal to any we have ever tasted.

Resolutions to join with the State Agricultural Society in their next exhibition, and also to ask an appropriation for the appointment of a State Entomologist, and also for the appointment of a delegation to the next Pomological Congress, and the appointment of an Ad-Interim Committee, were passed with great unanimity.

The next Annual Meeting of the Kansas State Horticultural Society, will be held at Ottawa, the 2nd Tuesday in December, 1869. The report of Mr. Kelsey, on Hedging, Evergreens and Forest Trees, we propose to take up in a separate article.

For personal favors and attentions, we tender our sincere and hearty thanks. Our first visit to the city of Leavenworth and the Kansas State Horticultural Society, will always leave a green spot in our memory.

HOW TO KEEP APPLES.

COL. N. J. COLMAN: Can you give me any instruction on keeping apples? I gathered mine late in the fall and put them in my cellar, and they are rotting badly. I have an excellent, warm cellar, under a new house, and thought I should have no trouble to keep my fruit well: but it never kept so badly. H. A. J.

REMARKS—We strongly suspect your "excellent, warm cellar," is what has destroyed your fruit. Cellars to keep fruit well, should not be kept warm. This induces early maturity and decay. Apples cannot be kept sound in a warm state; consequently, every apple cellar should be well ventilated. The nearer the temperature can be kept to the freezing point the better. There should always be kept in the cellar one or two good thermometers—one to show the state of the upper, and the other the lower, strata of the air. Let in the cool air of nights, when there is no danger of frost, and keep out the warm air of the day time. Cellar windows should be on hinges to admit of readily opening and closing, and you need not be afraid of cool air when there is no danger of freezing. During winter, when the cellar gets too warm, let in the cool air, and you will find your apples will keep well.

It is better to have suspended bins for apples in the middle of the cellar, the better to ventilate them. Two or three tiers of bins can be placed over one another.

It requires a great deal of care and attention to keep fruit well. Rooms above ground that admit of ventilation, so they are frost proof, are preferable to cellars for keeping fruit. We usually keep our fruit in an out-house in autumn till there is danger of freezing weather, and then put it in the cellar. Cellars are generally too warm in autumn for fruit to keep well.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]
Keeping Bulbs and Tubers Through Winter.

For a number of years I followed, closely, the rules laid down by the "books" for keeping Dahlias, Tube Roses, Gladiolus, Cannas, and various other tubers and bulbs. Many times I met with severe loss, and determined to try other methods. I buried in sand, in cellar free from frost, dahlias and gladiolus—placed like amount in barrels, as I would potatoes, with ventilation at the bottom, and set the same on hanging shelves in the cellar. All came out in good condition in the spring—did not lose a single tuber in over one thousand. Those in the sand were very much sprouted, and made splendid early-flowering plants.

I am satisfied if almost all tender bulbs and tubers are not kept *wet*, but in a moderately damp condition—the amount of dampness collected and transmitted from one to the other by being packed closely in barrels—that they will keep in much better shape than where dried for weeks, and then packed in damp sand.

Keep from frost; from *wet*, and too dry a position—and you will have less loss than by the troublesome and long process advocated for years by the growers of the same. T.

Winter Apples For Market.

ED. RURAL WORLD: If you were to plant out three varieties of winter apples for market culture in Missouri, what would they be?

SUBSCRIBER.

REPLY—Rome Beauty, Ben Davis, Smith's Cider. Of course we should be governed somewhat by the success of varieties in the particular locality where planted. These varieties, wherever they have been tried, have given excellent satisfaction.

FROM SOUTHERN INDIANA.

MESSRS. EDITORS: From observations made in the vicinity of St. Louis a few days after the recent cold snap (Dec. 11th) I concluded that the peach buds were pretty much all killed.—It is to be hoped, however, that such favorable localities as that of Col. N. J. Colman, in Jefferson Co., have escaped.

In traveling from the Mississippi to the Ohio by rail, I had no opportunity to examine, but here, on the river hills, the degree of cold was scarcely one degree below zero, while at St. Louis, it was 12 or 14 degrees below; and the most tender kinds of peaches here have escaped.

Let the remote cause be what it may for this large difference in degrees of cold, between places on precisely the same latitude, the immediate cause is very plain, and that is, that at St. Louis there was a clear sky, while here it was cloudy.

If the author of the "Tree Invigorator" would turn the powers of his wonderful mind toward the discovery of some artificial means by which sunshine and clouds would be at our command—I would like to invest in territory sufficient to cover my garden and peach orchard.

By the by, it is my opinion that, if a peach tree was covered at the first of November, so that neither sunshine nor rain would fall upon it until the opening of spring—that in no case would the buds be killed by frost.

Wheat! No where have I seen, this fall or winter, anything but favorable prospects for this grain. Sometimes wheat is almost totally killed by the severe cold of a single night; but this can never be done where there is even a light snow covering it; such was its condition at the time of our first real cold weather this winter, and, as a consequence, the plant now looks as bright and green as it did before the freeze. What I mean by favorable prospects is, as compared to other, or unfavorable seasons. Other circumstances are, as a general rule, unfavorable; that is to say, other things equal, our wheat crops seem to be getting less and less every year. A. D.

Otto, Ind., Dec. 19th.

Tender Roses—How to Grow and Keep Them.

The tender roses—Teas, Chinas, Noisettes, &c.—are generally thought to be very difficult to preserve over winter—that they are sure to be winter-killed, and so on. While it is admitted that they are really tender, as compared with other families of roses, it does not follow that the winter uniformly destroys them in this latitude; indeed, with very little trouble they may be safely carried through most winters, if properly managed from the beginning. Their tenderness is only relatively so—further South, and in Southern Europe, they are entirely hardy, while a few degrees North they can't be kept over winter in open air, but invariably kill.

To start aright, then, always plant in beds or masses; first, to get the best effect from them when in bloom; and, second, to ensure a better preparation of the soil, and for the easier protecting them in winter: next secure a dry sub-soil—one with sandy or gravelly bottom—all of our suburban uplands where Post oak grows, will do. If the location is low and flat, soil deep and mucky, then raise your beds, or otherwise secure drainage for the roots of your plants in winter. Water at the roots is more fatal to tender roses, almost, than exposure to a low temperature.

Of course, in preparing a bed, or beds, for such universal favorites as roses, you will not hesitate to do the best that your skill and judgment can suggest for them. Well, then, drain all surplus water from their feet; trench the bed eighteen inches deep—a heavy, clay loam, just such as abounds all around us, is what the rose delights in; if too thin and poor, add some good, rotten, stable manure; and perhaps you had better not bring the sour sub-soil to the very top, but mix it with the top-soil; or, breaking it up, let it lay at the bottom where it is. Roses, however, like a strong, rich soil, and will flourish in a stiff clay, with some manure added. Your beds may be large or small, and of any shape your fancy indicates, to suit your ground and circumstances, and to hold from half a dozen to fifty, or more, plants—better not too large, however. Now set your plants two to three feet apart, all over the bed; or, if you have not enough to go over that way, scatter them equally over the bed, and intersperse some bedding plants, as verbenas, or something amongst them during summer.

Select a few of the best sorts of all the different colors; pinch off all the decaying blossoms, and mulch, or cultivate, the bed well; and you never ought to be without a bouquet of roses, from May to November.

Now for the winter protection: As severe weather approaches—say some time in December—lay them away in winter quarters as follows; If you live near the city, nothing better can be had than shaving manure; which is manure from the stable where planing mill shavings have been used for bedding. Cover the bed all over with this material, to the depth of four or six inches, and pack it well around the stems and over the collar of each plant; or, you may bury them in it, tops and all, by bending the latter down, but be sure and heap it well over the crown of the plant. In the country, where the above material can't be got, short straw, that has passed through a threshing machine, is excellent; or, what is better, leaves from the forest. In either case cover the bed up deep, and look well after the crown—the tops do not matter so much, as if the twigs and spray gets killed—and you have the roots and a few inches of the stem sound—you have a good foundation for another summer's growth and bloom. Uncover only when all danger of severe freezing is over in spring—perhaps better done a little by degrees.—Prune down to sound wood and live buds; dress up the bed with spade or fork, digging in a little manure, &c. Trim up the edges and make all neat, and let her go. C. S.

From Hon. Marshall P. Wilder.

COL. COLMAN—Dear Sir: To prevent conflict with the Constitution of other Societies, I beg to inform our Western friends that we have agreed on September 15th, as the day for the commencement of the next session of the American Pomological Society, in Philadelphia.

We are also, as you may have heard, to have a meeting of the Fruit Committees, in New York, February 10th, and shall be happy to see all who are interested in making the Catalogue of our National Society as perfect as possible.

Yours, as ever, MARSHALL P. WILDER.
 Dorchester, Mass., Dec. 22, 1868.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

THE LIMA BEAN.

One of the greatest luxuries—indeed indispensable, now-a-days—is a supply, be it small or large, of vegetables and fruits, so preserved for winter as to retain the original goodness as nearly as possible unchanged. Among the easiest of these to keep, and which requires no canning, is the Lima Bean. It may be picked in its green state, when just right to eat, and dried in the pods—not in the sun, but in some cool and airy room or shed. It is positively no trouble at all, and the beans, when cooked, will be found fully as tender and as sweet as when first picked; at least I have never been able to tell wherein is the difference. They should be soaked in cold water a few hours before cooking.

I do not see why they are not found in market, as green peas dried in this way are found in almost every grocery, and seem to sell. The farmer, however, can have them, and if he does so once, will always. A. A. O.



Tall Rocket Larkspur.



Dwarf Rocket Larkspur.



Single Flower.

LARKSPURS.

The Larkspurs are a charming family of plants. The richest, deepest, brightest, loveliest of all lovely colors (blue) are to be found in this family. The perennial Larkspurs have the honor of possessing these finest colors, as was explained in a former article on the subject.

The annual Larkspurs, now under consideration, are, however, very beautiful and very varied in their colors; and, being stiff, upright, slender plants, with long spikes of their many-colored flowers standing clear above the stem, and needle-like foliage, renders a bed of these very attractive and showy. Moreover, they may be classed as a hardy annual, as self-sown seeds come up and live over winter; so they might be sown in the fall and protected slightly during winter; thinned out properly, and allowed to bloom where they stand. Another sowing made in the spring would give a succession and prolong the season. Vick says of these (and we can have no better authority)—“The dwarf sorts make a most beautiful mass of flowers. A bed in perfection is almost equal to a bed of Hyacinths. They should stand five or six inches apart. The tall, branching varieties, grow two feet in height, and are fine for bouquet making. Plants should stand eighteen inches apart. Sow where they are to bloom.” C. S.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

Growing Fruit Trees in Grass--Pruning.

The *Gardeners' Monthly* seems to wish to make itself notorious, by advocating the growing of fruit in grass, or having the roots very near the surface, and not to cultivate as we would a field of corn. We consider such advice and teachings, a damage to fruit growing. It leads many, whom we think otherwise would cultivate and grow fruit, to meet with failure of time, and faith in fruit growing in many sections of our country. This new system of non-cultivation and pruning may answer very well for some limited localities, but for us, of the West, will not answer. To be successful—when our trees come into bearing—they need long roots, that go down into the damp clay, to keep life and vigor in them through our long summers of intense heat and dryness. A tree to acquire vigor, health and long life, should be thoroughly cultivated. How often do we see old and infirm orchards brought to renewed life—recuperated from almost barrenness, to thrifty, productive orchards, by plowing up the grass, manuring and cultivating the same?

To form good, thrifty trees; to keep top and body uniform—a course of judicious pruning is as necessary as the shortening in of the wood of the grape, when wood must be sacrificed to secure a crop of fruit. We have seen, all over the West, in our rich, prairie soils—orchards, thrifty, healthy, and of bearing age; yet not a single specimen did they bear until the knife went into the top and cut away a large portion of the luxuriant growth. Cultivation should be performed in the early part of the season—not later than July 15th for young trees—that they may have

ample time to fully mature all the wood formed, before the cold of winter comes on. OZARK.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: A few days since I received a copy of your *Rural World*. Am much pleased with it. I think we will renew our acquaintance. I took the *Valley Farmer* for about nine years. Please send me another copy or two—will see if I cannot make up a club.

Our peaches are killed; pear buds very much blackened. We have had two crops of peaches in succession—unusual for North-west Missouri. J. S.

Stewartville, De Kalb Co., Mo., Dec 22d, 1868.

PEACH BUDS NOT ALL KILLED.—Friend Colman: I have been examining the peach buds for the last few days, and find that on many of the trees they are pretty well thinned out by the cold snap of the 11th—though on others there is scarce a dead one to be found.

On all kinds, the most prominent buds, and those of rankest growth, are most injured; where they are double the large one is killed and small one alive as yet—seedlings not injured so much. A good many rabbits around, but they have done no damage. Had all the apple trees and small peach trees rubbed with hog's liver, and it appears an effective remedy against rabbits.

On 11th thermometer stood here at 4° below zero. W. S. J.

Platin Rock, Jeff'n. Co., Mo., Dec. 25th, 1868.

The Vineyard.

GRAPE CULTURE.

In the whole range of operations associated with the cultivation of the soil, nothing has laid hold of the mind so completely as the culture of the grape. It seems to have been more or less the same in all ages and all lands; nor has the lapse of years, or the breadth of acres diminished this interest, or cooled down the enthusiasm; on the contrary, it is amazingly on the increase.

When in 1848, after a few years experiment with the grape, Hans D. Widersprecher, John Schaefer and others, formed a corporation for growing wine in Gasconade Co., and obtained a charter from the Legislature—many shook their heads with a sage doubt that it would be sadly overdone. In that charter they wisely undertook to scatter the germs of the grape “fever,” by engaging to “report the condition of growing the grape in their county—the improvement made within the last year in kinds, raising and management of the wines; with the quantity, quality and probable value of the wine they raise, with such other information on the subject of wine raising as they may think useful to the public.”

Here was the initiatory step taken in giving due prominence to this grand branch of industry. It is very doubtful if the most sanguine of these men ever dreamed of the magnitude of the agencies then reduced to form, and cast out among the industrial forces of our then infant State.

The lapse of over twenty years, with its experiments and their lessons bearing on the public mind, has, so far from satisfying the public mind, only whetted it to a keener edge, only extended its capacity.

To-day the demand for information on all pertaining to the grape, is more loud, persistent and widely spread, than ever before; and our State is at once the point most anxiously looked to, for the soils to plant in and the information as to what, and how to plant.

With a view to meet these wants, more prominence will be given to this subject in our journal. Special pains will be taken to present such information as will be reliable, and has been well tested under varying circumstances, and established facts will always be presented in preference to theories, however plausible. No pains will be spared to bring to public notice every improvement in varieties and management; but the mere idea of Novelty will be rather eschewed, and every thing put to practical test, as the only basis upon which to hope for solid progress. The path of progress is rough and laborious—the points that are made with certainty are apparent few; but the possession of a single fact is infinitely more value than any amount of theory or mere opinion.

Can we gain any lessons from the past twenty years? What varieties had Hans D. Widersprecher & Co to begin with? The Catawba and Isabella and Catawba.

At that time the Norton was only known

a small, insignificant looking vine, planted by Hans D. Widersprecher. Since then we have the Norton as a fact. The Concord can be planted almost everywhere. The Clinton stands well. The Herbemont, but for being tender in winter, would take high position. Martha, some of the Rogers' Hybrids, Cynthiana and a few others, hold out fair prospects of being a success. Cape and Isabella are among the things that were, and the Catawba is "too fickle to tie to" in this region. We desire to aid in developing the grape interest in the State, and shall put to rigid test every matter connected with the subject.

Wants in Grape Culture.

I want a white grape that is quite healthy, hardy and productive.

I want varieties that will make light colored wines as successfully as Norton, Concord, Clinton, &c., make dark wines.

I want an early grape with a very uniform, sweet and consistent pulp, that will dry to become a good raisin. If any one can give us the particulars about these they will greatly oblige a
NOVICE.

When to Cut Stakes for Grapes.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I see in your issue of Dec. 19th, 1868, one of your subscribers wants to know what time to cut timber for grape stakes. I write from experience—facts are what we all want that read the *Rural*; I want information myself sometimes. I am in the vineyard business myself pretty extensively. Cut your stakes in July and August and sharpen them; let them season, at least till the next March—longer if you can. Sharpen the top end. There is a difference of five or six years in their lasting. Distribute them before the frost is out of the ground in the spring; then, just as soon as the frost is out—in March, or sooner—set the stakes without using anything but the stake itself, also without injuring the small roots. You can put them down in that way 16 to 18 inches with a very few blows on the stake. I can set more in one day in that way, than three men can after the ground is settled; and after the ground is settled they will feel as if they had grown there.
S. B., Fayette Co., Ills.

THE WEATHER

FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 25TH.

The weather during the past week, has shown a very rapid decline from the very high temperature of the previous week. On the 19th, under the action of a very high temperature, the snow melted rapidly, but still remained on the northern exposures.

The wind changed to the N. W., falling on the 23d and 24th to a mean of 12°, falling on Thursday morning to 2°. On the evening of the 25th, the mercury rose rapidly, accompanied with snow.

Amid the biting blasts of cheerless December, we have a gentle reminder of coming spring—the several varieties of Narcissus having made their appearance, smiling amid the chills and clouds and desolation of mid-winter.

The mean of the week, 29°.52.
Maximum, on 19th, at 2 P. M. 65°.
Minimum, on 24th, at 7 A. M. 2°. Range, 63°.

The latest fancy potato story is told of a man in Hubbardton, Vt., who bought one eye of a "No. 4" potato for \$20, and raised from it this season potatoes that he sold for \$750, and has three left. Eight were bought by one man for \$400.

Colman's Rural World,

A Weekly Agricultural and Horticultural Journal, of 16 Quarto pages, forming two volumes a year of 416 pages each, beginning with January and July.

TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.
A FREE COPY for one year to any person sending a club of five new subscribers and Ten Dollars.
See Premium List in Advertising Columns.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

TAKE NOTICE!

We send to every subscriber twenty-four seeds of the Improved Alton Nutmeg Melon, provided Stamped Envelopes are enclosed to us with the address of the party to whom they are to be sent, written upon them; and not otherwise.

We send the RURAL WORLD Free for one year to every person sending us the names of Five New Subscribers—not old ones.

COURSE OF LECTURES AT THE ILLINOIS INDUSTRIAL UNIVERSITY.—In our last issue we stated that there would be a course of free Lectures and Discussions given at the Illinois Industrial University at Champaigne, beginning January 12th and continuing to January 22d.

Dr. John A. Warder, of Cincinnati, Ohio, author of American Pomology and many other popular works, and one of the best posted Horticulturists in the West—will lecture daily during the course, from 4 to 5 o'clock P. M.

There will also be lectures by at least three other gentlemen daily, during the course, on agricultural topics, followed by free discussions by all present.

We ask our readers to look over the programme to be found in our advertising columns, and see the rich intellectual repast that will be afforded to all without charge. We hope the efforts of our friend—the Hon. W. C. Flaggs—who has been largely instrumental in getting up this enterprise, will be properly appreciated and seconded by our prominent agriculturists of the Western States.

INDIANA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The next meeting of the Indiana State Horticultural Society will be held at Indianapolis, on the 5th, 6th and 7th of January.

The Indiana Horticulturists are wide-awake, and our Missouri and Illinois friends would be benefitted by rubbing against them.

Officers of County Agricultural Societies.

The Presidents and Secretaries of County Agricultural Societies, will confer a great favor by giving the Names and Post Office addresses of all the officers of their respective organizations, to the Secretary, elect, of the State Board of Agriculture, C. W. Murtfeldt, 612 North Fifth street, St. Louis. Gentlemen will please do this without delay.

WANTED.

A Practical Vineyardist, one that has had experience in pruning and training the Concord and other American varieties of grapes. To such a person—either married or single—who can come well recommended, I will give good wages. Vineyard situated on the I. M. R. R. within 30 miles of St. Louis. Norman J. Colman, St. Louis, Mo.

How To HELP THE RURAL WORLD.—There are many ways in which its friends can help the *Rural World*. First, show the paper, or talk to your friends about it, or both. Get up a club, or aid some friend to do it, or induce your Post-Master to act as agent. Send for specimen numbers which we send free. A little effort will secure a large club in any locality, and this is the best season to make the effort. Reader, will you see that this matter is attended to in your own neighborhood? Additions to clubs are always in order, whether by one or twenty. They are received at any time, and from any post office. Reader, how many can you make from your own neighborhood?

PERSONAL.—Chas. D. Bragdon, Esq. This gentleman has long been favorably known to western readers of Agricultural papers. Years ago he was the sole editor of the "Prairie Farmer," while the proprietorship of that paper was vested in John S. Wright. When H. D. Emery bought out the paper and established "Emery's Journal of Agriculture," Mr. Bragdon was editor in fact and continued in that position for some time. Subsequently he became associate editor of "Moore's Rural New-Yorker," and was the only editor of that paper who had his name and standing published to the world. For the last two or three years Mr. Bragdon has been the Agricultural editor of the "Chicago Republican." In this last position Mr. B. had also other editorial duties put upon him, which required him to work at night, frequently till three o'clock, A. M. This we think has had a tendency to undermine his health. We rejoice to hear, from authentic sources, that he is to be editorially connected with "Moore's Rural New-Yorker," hereafter to be published in New York City. We believe the new position will be more congenial to Mr. Bragdon's tastes and better for his health, and we feel assured that no appointment that Mr. Moore could make, would give more satisfaction to the readers of the "Rural."

Godey's Lady's Book and Colman's Rural World.

We will send the RURAL WORLD and GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK, for 1869, to any address, for \$4.50. Or, Peterson's Magazine & Colman's Rural World, To any address, for three dollars and fifty cents.

THE GALAXY.—This large Monthly fully sustains its high character in the field of literature. It is edited with great ability, and numbers among its contributors some of the best writers in the United States. It is published at \$4 per annum, by Sheldon & Co., Broadway, New York.

OLD MEN IN CLARK COUNTY, MO.—James McDermot, father of Wm. McDermot, a well-known citizen of Clark Co., Mo., was one hundred and nine years old, January 1st, 1869. He is a native of Ireland, but has been a resident of Clark county for upwards of forty years. He has been totally blind for the past four years. Since arriving at the age of one hundred years, he preferred walking to church and back, to riding, though the church is three miles from his residence.

Clark county has another old citizen by the name of Gilfoy. He is upwards of one hundred years old. Clark must be a healthy county.

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE.—The third volume of this popular Monthly Magazine of Literature, Science and Education, will begin Jan. 1st, 1869. It has already placed itself foremost in the class of our Magazine Literature, and deserves immense patronage. It is published at \$4 per annum by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, Penn.

THE NEW ECLECTIC MAGAZINE.—The fourth volume of this excellent Monthly Magazine will commence on the 1st of January. It will afford to every family the most interesting reading matter. It is published by Turnbull & Murdoch, Baltimore, Md., at \$4 per annum.



THE CHILDREN.

[The following beautiful poem was written by Charles Dickens.]

When the lessons and tasks are all ended,
And the school for the day is dismissed,
And the little ones gather around me,
To bid me good-night and be kissed;
Oh, the little white arms that encircle
My neck in a tender embrace!
Oh, the smiles that are halos of heaven,
Shedding sunshine of love on my face!

And when they are gone I sit dreaming
Of my childhood, too lovely to last;
Of love that my heart will remember,
When it wakes to the pulse of the past,
Ere the world and its wickedness made me
A partner of sorrow and sin:
When the glory of God was about me,
When the glory of gladness within.

Oh, my heart grows weak as a woman's,
And the fountains of feeling will flow,
When I think of the paths, steep and stony,
Where the feet of the dear ones must go;
Of the mountains of sin hanging o'er them,
Of the tempest of fate blowing wild;
Oh, there is nothing on earth half so holy
As the innocent heart of a child!

They are idols of hearts and of households;
They are angels of God in disguise;
His sunlight still sleeps in their tresses,
His glory still gleams in their eyes;
Oh, those truants from home and from heaven,
They have made me more manly and mild!
And I know how Jesus could liken
The Kingdom of God to a child!

I ask not a life for the dear ones
All radiant, as others have done,
But that life may have just enough shadow
To temper the glare of the sun;
I would pray God to guard them from evil,
But my prayer would bound back to myself;
Ah! a seraph may pray for a sinner,
But a sinner must pray for himself.

The twig is so easily bended,
I have banished the rule and the rod;
I have taught them the goodness of knowledge,
They have taught me the goodness of God;
My heart is a dungeon of darkness,
Where I shut them for breaking a rule;
My frown is sufficient correction—
My love is the law of the school.

I shall leave the old house in the autumn,
To traverse its threshold no more;
Ah, how I shall sigh for the dear ones
That meet me each morn at the door!
I shall miss the "good-nights" and the kisses,
And the gush of their innocent glee,
The group on the green, and the flowers
That are brought every morning to me.

I shall miss them at morn and at evening,
Their song in the school and the street;
I shall miss the low hum of their voices,
And the tramp of their delicate feet.
When the lessons and tasks are all ended,
And death says, "The school is dismissed?"
May the little ones gather around me,
To bid me good-night and be kissed.

Value the friendship of him who stands by
you in the storm; swarms of insects will sur-
round you in the sunshine.

Many of our cares are but a morbid way of
looking at our privileges. We let our blessings
get mouldy, and then call them curses.

OUR ANCESTORS.

The customs, manners, literature, architecture, history—everything, in fine, pertaining to England, previous to the seventeenth century, may be regarded as common ancestral property by all John Bull's progeny, wherever scattered over the world. To a large majority of our readers, therefore, whatever throws light upon the olden times of Great Britain, can never cease to be of interest. The October New England Farmer, noticing a recent publication—"Our English Homes," extracts and comments as follows:

"The whale was eaten by the Saxons; and when men were lucky enough to get it, it appeared on the table late in the fifteenth century. In 1246 Henry III. directed the Sheriff of London to purchase one hundred pieces of whale for his table. Whales found on the coast were perquisites of royalty; they were caught and sent to the King's kitchen in carts. Edward II. gave a reward of thirty shillings to three mariners who caught a whale near London bridge. Those found on the banks of the Thames were claimed by the Lord Mayor, and added to the civic feast. Pieces of whale were often purchased in the nineteenth century for the table of the Countess of Leicester. England was often supplied with this choice dainty by the fishermen of Normandy, who made it an article of commerce. The Normans had various ways of cooking it; sometimes it was roasted and brought to the table on a spit; but the usual way was to boil it and serve it up with peas. Epicures always looked out for a slice from the tongue or the tail. The grampus, or the sea wolf, were also highly esteemed; but of all the blubber dainties, the porpoise was deemed the most savory. The Saxons called it sea swine, and the ecclesiastics of the middle ages *porco marino*.—Porpoises were purchased for the table of Henry III. 1246.

In the reign of Henry II., the whole stock of a carpenter's tools was valued at one shilling, and consisted of a broad-axe, adze, a square and a spoke-shave. There were a very few chimneys; the fire was laid to the wall, and the smoke issued out at the roof or door, or window, and the furniture and utensils were of wood.—The people slept on straw pallets, with a log of wood for a pillow. Even as late as the time of Elizabeth, 1558, it is stated that apologies were made to visitors if they could not be accommodated in rooms provided with chimneys. They had few glass windows, and when glass was introduced it was for a long time so scarce that when people went away they would order the windows taken out and laid up in safety.

In the seventeenth century none but the clergymen wore linen. The household furniture among the wealthy, consisted of an occasional brass pot, a brass cup, a gridiron, and a rug or two, and perhaps a towel. Of chairs and tables we hear nothing. Even the nobility sat upon the chests in which they kept their clothes. If a man in seven years after marriage could purchase a flock bed and a sack of chaff to rest his head upon, he thought himself as well lodged as the lord of the town.

In addition to this poverty of what seems to us absolute necessities, the houses and the people were exceedingly dirty. Erasmus, a celebrated scholar of Holland, who visited England, complains that the nastiness of "the people was the cause of the frequent plagues which destroyed them;" and he says that their floors are commonly of clay, strewed with rushes, under which lie unmolested a collection of beer, grease, fragments, bones, spittle, excrements of dogs and cats, and of everything that is nauseous.

Their tables were as miserably supplied as their dwellings. They had little fresh meat, but salted most of their cattle and swine in November, upon which they mostly depended through the winter. Very few vegetables of any kind came upon their tables. It is stated

that in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. not a cabbage, turnip, carrot or other edible root grew in England.

The average duration of human life was at that period not one-half as long as that of the present day. The constant use of salted meat, and few or no vegetables, contributed to the shortening of life, to say nothing of the large number swept away by pestilence and famine.

BOOKLESS HOUSES.

We form judgements of men from little things about their houses, of which the owners perhaps never think. Flowers about a rich man's house may signify only that he has a good gardener, or that he has refined neighbors, and does what he sees them do. But men are not accustomed to buy books unless they want them. If, on visiting the dwelling of a man of slender means, we find that he contents himself with cheap carpets and very plain furniture, in order that he may purchase books, he rises at once in our esteem. Books are not made for furniture, but there is nothing else that so beautifully furnishes a house. The plainest row of books is more significant of refinement than the most elaborately carved sideboard.

Give us a house furnished with books rather than furniture. Both, if you can; but books at any rate! To spend several days in a friend's house, and hunger for something to read, while you are treading on costly carpets, and sitting upon luxurious chairs, and sleeping upon down, is as if one were bribing your body for the sake of cheating your mind.

Books are the windows through which the soul looks out. A house without them is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding them with books, if he has the means to buy them. It is a wrong to his family. Children learn to read by being in the presence of books. The love of knowledge comes with reading, and grows upon it. And the love of knowledge in a young mind is almost a warrant against the inferior excitement of passions and vice.

Let us pity those poor rich men who live barrenly in great bookless houses. Let us congratulate the poor that, in our day, books are so cheap that a man may every year add a hundred volumes to his library for the price of what his tobacco and his beer would cost him. Among the earliest ambitions to be excited in clerks, workmen, journeymen—and, indeed, among all that are struggling in the race of life—is that of owning, and constantly adding to, a library of good books. A little library, growing larger every year, is an honorable part of a young man's history.

It is a man's duty to have books. A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.

DIPPING CHARLES LAMB.

"Coleridge," says Du Quincy, "told me of a ludicrous embarrassment which Lamb's stammering caused him at Hastings. Lamb had been medically advised to a course of sea bathing; and accordingly, at the door of his bathing machine, while he stood shivering with cold, two stout fellows laid hold of him, one at each shoulder, like heraldic supporters; they waited for the word of command from their principal, who began the following oration to them:—"Hear me, men! Take notice of this; I am to be dipped—"

What more he would have said is unknown to land or sea bathing machines; for, having reached the word dipped, he commenced such a rolling fire of di—di—di—di, that when at length he descended a plumb upon the full word dipped, the two men, rather tired of the long suspense, became satisfied that they had reached what lawyers call the "operative" clause of the sentence, and both exclaimed at once, "O, yes, we are quite aware of that," and down they plunged him into the sea.

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On emerging, Lamb sobbed so much from the cold that he found no voice suitable to his indignation; from necessity he was tranquil; and again addressing the men, who stood respectfully listening, he began thus:—"Men, is it possible to obtain your attention?" "O, surely sir, by all means." "Then listen:—Once more I tell you, I am to be di—di—di—dipped—" and with a burst of indignation, "dipped I tell you." "O, decidedly, sir." And down the stammerer went for the second time.

Petrified with cold and wrath, once more Lamb made a feeble attempt to explain. "Grant me pa—pa—tience; is it mum—um—murder you me—me—mean? Again and a—ga—ga—gain, I tell you, I'm to be di—di—di—dipped—" now speaking furiously with the voice of an injured man. "O, yes, sir," the men replied, "we know that—we fully understand it," and for the third time, down went Lamb into the sea. "O, limbs of Satan!" he said, on coming up for the third time, "it's now too late. I tell you that I am—no, that I was to be di—di—dipped only once."

TALL WOMEN AND LITTLE WOMEN.—Grace Darling, the light-house heroine, was tall. So was the Countess Isabelle, who stoutly held her castle against the besiegers, and foreswore the ministrations of all washer-women until her beleaguered stronghold was relieved. Marie Antoinette, if we are to trust Paul Delaroche's pictures, was tall; so was Mary Queen of Scots, and they both died heroically. Elizabeth had pluck enough for the whole Eighty-eighth regiment, and I have no doubt would have fought Philip II. and the Duke of Ava single-handed had they landed at Tilbury fort. Flora MacDonald was a lassie of considerable inches; the electioneering Duchess of Devonshire was tall; so was Queen Caroline, who, whatever may have been her morals, certainly fought a good fight against George IV. But tall heroines are exceptional; and when we have all humanity to deal with, the exceptions are relatively numerous. I adhere to the little women. Boadicea, you may depend upon it, was short. Zenobia was not of exorbitant stature. Her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria is no giantess. The Princess of Wales is not colossal. Patti is diminutive, Lucca quite a Lilliputian. So was Jenny Lind; so is Madam Goldschmidt. Miss Nightingale is slight and slender. For every ten tall heroines you bring me I will cap them with a hundred little ones.

Velocipeding in France.

Writing on Tuesday night, a Paris correspondent says: "Velocipede building now forms an important branch of trade here. There are not only manufactories of these new locomotives, but there are foundries where the iron work of which they are composed is cast. One of these employs 250 workmen, and finishes off twelve velocipedes per day for a coach-builder of Lyons, who sells them at the rate of twenty per day. An expert driver can do ten miles and a quarter (that is sixteen kilometres) in an hour, but the average rate of traveling is ten kilometres in the sixty minutes (that is six miles and a half), and with the same fatigue which would be experienced by walking at an ordinary pace during that time. The effort a man makes to advance three feet will carry him nine feet and a half forward on a velocipede, but naturally on condition that his machine is well-built and works easily. The ordinary price of a good one is [\$100]. A Lyonesse velocipedist is willing to take any bet that he will beat the fastest trotter in a race. The aquatic velocipede may be seen worked on the lake of the Bois de Boulogne by a gentleman, who appears to make his way through the waters with considerable ease, and as rapidly as a single oarsman would in a boat. In the streets of Paris no person now takes the trouble of looking at these new locomotives, so numerous are they, and so commonly to be seen,

whirling away amidst a net-work of omnibuses, carriages, and the usual *encombrement* of a crowded city. Prince Achille Murat is the chief adept in the art of rapid driving, and much given to the exercise."—*Ex.*

The November Star Shower.

The magnificent display of falling stars seen on the morning of November 14, 1866, led many to watch, last November, for a recurrence of the phenomenon. Astronomers were not very positive, indeed, in asserting the probability that the shower would be seen. The full moon was shining, too, throughout the morning of November 14, and a haze overspread the sky towards the hour at which the display was expected to attain its maximum of brilliancy; so that even if stars had been falling in considerable numbers, few could have been seen. But, as a matter of fact, had the night been ever so clear, we should have seen no shower; for it is now well known that the display took place elsewhere.

It was confidently anticipated that the shower would be seen to the best advantage in America; and so doubtful were astronomers as to the exact hour of the display in England, that Mr. Alex. Herschell (who was justly recognized as the leading English authority in the matter) pronounced the 13th as the day on which the shower was most likely to take place.

We now know that the earth takes but a short time—six or seven hours, perhaps—in passing through the meteor zone. If the passage happens to take place while it is early morning with us, we shall see the display, weather permitting; but if the passage takes place during any other part of the twenty-four hours, we shall see nothing of the shooting stars. So far as calculation may be depended upon, it is more likely that we shall miss the spectacle than that it will be well seen. But, as we have said, there is no certainty on the subject. The chances are about equal that the 13th or the 14th of November will be the day of the display.

When we watched the display of November 14, 1866, we had but faint conceptions of the magnificence of the scheme to which the stars we saw belonged. Astronomers themselves had been unwilling to accept the theory that the recurrence of periodic maxima some three times in a century, indicated that the zone of meteors had that enormous extension which corresponds to a period of revolution of thirty-three years. It was shown that if the meteors really revolved in such a period their orbital motions must carry them far out in space beyond the orbit of the distant planet Uranus. Therefore, astronomers attempted to show that the meteors may possibly revolve in an orbit somewhat smaller than that of our own earth, the richest part of the zone circling round in less than a year, but encountering our earth once only in thirty-three years. But the calculations of Adams have proved beyond all possibility of doubt that the zone of meteors really has the enormous extension indicated by the former view. The meteors which we watched in 1866 had come from beyond the orbit of Uranus, and we might almost say that they were connected by a continuous stream of their companions with those far distant regions of space which lie between the orbits of Uranus and Neptune. But this is not all. One of the most suggestive discoveries ever made by astronomers is associated in an intimate manner with the November shooting-star system. We believe that the Italian Schiaparelli was the first to notice that the August meteors seem to travel in the track of the great comet of 1862. The coincidence between the meteor zone and the orbit of that comet was sufficiently close, when a certain assumption was made respecting the paths of the meteors. The assumption was permissible—at least nothing was known about the meteors which seemed to negative it. But a certain amount of doubt naturally clung round a theory which required an antecedent supposition of this sort. But as soon as the actual

orbit of a meteor system was determined, it was hoped that more satisfactory evidence might be obtained on the subject of the supposed connection between comets and shooting-star systems. Therefore astronomers began to examine the lists of cometic orbits to see if any of them agreed with the orbit assigned to the November meteor zone.

For some time the search was unsuccessful. None of the larger and more conspicuous comets showed any such approach to coincidence as had been looked for. But at length, when the inquiry had been extended to telescopic comets, one was found which presented the required elements. This comet had been discovered by Dr. Tempel early in the year 1866, and it has been well pointed out that the coincidence by which the discovery of the comet fell in the very year in which the problem of the November shooting-stars was finally solved, is among the most interesting of the many coincidences which have been recorded in the annals of science.

The agreement between the orbit of Tempel's comet and that of the November shooting stars, is too close for any doubt to remain that a real association exists between the meteors and the comet; and since the discovery of the association we have pointed out, other shooting-star systems—for many are recognized by astronomers—have been examined, and in several other instances it has been found that a similar association connects comets and shooting-stars.

We think this discovery may fairly be looked upon as one of the most remarkable ever made. Astronomers have long recognized in comets the most perplexing objects presented to their contemplation. What comets are made of, whence they come, how they escape destruction when they come so close to the sun, whence and how their enormous tails are generated? these and a hundred such questions have been asked, and it had almost seemed hopeless to expect a satisfactory answer to any one of them. But now it turns out that, year after year, for upwards of sixteen centuries, the earth has been passing through what may be looked on as the tail of a comet. Our star-gazers have wondered as they saw the sky covered with meteors, but they would have wondered more had they known the real meaning of the phenomenon. And then how many startling considerations are suggested by the fact that the comet to which all those brilliant displays have been due is a telescopic one—that is, is so minute that the acutest vision would be unable to detect it without the aid of the telescope. If we passed through the tail of any of the more brilliant comets how gorgeously would our skies be lighted up with flashing meteors, when this tiny mist, altogether invisible to the naked eye, is capable of producing such magnificent displays.—*Ex.*

REMARKS.—We take the above from a foreign exchange, and call attention to the weather report for week ending 13th November for notice of "falling stars." See No. 22, last volume, page 345.

In November '66 we received a chart of the heavens from the Smithsonian Institution, and made all necessary arrangements for observations, but the night was lost to self and two assistants in consequence of a dense haze.

In Nov. '67 we watched with much interest for over a week, but without any satisfactory results.

In last November, it escaped our memory till the 13th, having been from home.

On the morning of the 14th, got up at 3 A. M., to prepare the weather report, and from 3 till past 5 A. M., witnessed one of the most magnificent displays imaginable.

Getting all the family up to witness the grand

spectacle we tried to count the meteors, and several times counted a hundred in a minute. In many cases we heard a crackling noise, like the rapid explosion of single grains of gunpowder.

HEATING SCHOOL HOUSES.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: In your paper of Oct. 17th, page 251, I find an article upon the Heating of School Houses according to the Laws of Nature, a subject of no small importance. Had the writer of that article been properly posted upon ventilation, as well as heating public buildings, he would have had less difficulty to contend with. I would here remark, that the subject of ventilating and warming public buildings upon the plan introduced by Henry Rulan, Esq., of Coburg, Canada West, and secured by patent, and now offered to the public by W. A. Rennell & Co., of Normal, Illinois—may justly and properly be termed one of the greatest discoveries of the age. A perfect system of ventilation has more to do with health than any other discovery; and may, therefore, be claimed as one of the greatest importance. Without health, we can have no enjoyment; and wealth obtained at the sacrifice of health, is too dearly bought.

Mr. Rulan's system is founded upon perfectly philosophical principles, and will be comprehended and acknowledged by every intelligent mind that gives it a fair investigation. It is a well-known fact, that impure air settles at the bottom of the room, and it is equally as well known that cold air is heavier than warm air; thus occupying the same space. Now, to remove this cold and impure air we must make an opening below, instead of at the top of the window (as has been the practice), and, by passing the air through one of Rulan's furnaces or stoves, it may be warmed to any desirable degree, at half the expense it could, by any other process; and a saving of half the expense of fuel, and a double object gained—pure fresh air and heated, or rather warmed, at the same time. If there should be any doubt as to the impure air that has passed through the lungs being heavier than pure air, it may be decided by taking an open glass jar, 10 or 12 inches high, and setting a candle-stick into it, with three lighted candles, the first one inch high, the second two inches high, the third three inches high; now take a small India-rubber tube and exhale through the tube for a few minutes, and the lowest candle will go out; in a few minutes more, the second, and so with the third. Here we have the open jar representing our former plan of ventilation; but the foul, or impure air, remains in the jar. Now, what we want, is this and the cold air removed, which can only be done by making an opening below.

I send you one of Messrs. W. A. Rennell & Co.'s circulars; those wishing information, will do well to make application to them for circulars.

I saw this system of ventilation fully exhibited at our State fairs, by a model house upon this principle, to which was awarded the diploma. We are living in an age of progress and improvement, and it becomes us to prove all things and hold fast that which is good.

M. C. N.

A HORSE IN BATTLE.

Kinglake, in his "History of the Crimean Invasion," gives the following graphic description of a horse in battle:

"The extent to which a charger can apprehend the perils of a battle-field may be easily underrated by one who confines his observation to horses still carrying their riders; for as long as a troop-horse in action feels the weight and hand of a master, his deep trust in man keeps him seemingly free from great terror, and he goes through the fight, unless wounded, as though it were a field day at home; but the moment that death or a disabling wound deprives him of his rider, he seems all at once to learn what a battle is—to perceive its real dangers with the clearness of a human being, and to be agonized with horror of the fate he may incur for want of a hand to guide him. Careless of the mere thunders of guns, he shows plainly enough that he more or less knows the dread accent that is used by missiles of war while cutting their way through the air, for as often as these sounds disclose to him the near passage of bullet or round-shot he shrinks and cringes.—His eyeballs protrude. Wild with fright, he still does not commonly gallop home into camp. His instinct seems rather to tell him that what safety, if any, there is for him, must be found in the ranks; and he rushes at the first squadron he can find, urging piteously, yet with violence, that he too by right is a troop horse—that he too is willing to charge, but not to be left behind—that he must and he will "fall in."

This almost equals the superb description of the war-horse in Job.

Inducements to Immigrants.

It is quite often the case that we receive inquiries, such as the following, which comes to the *Country Gentleman* from Mr. John Kirby, 156 Waverley Place, New York City, under date of December 8th:

"Will you, through the medium of your Journal, either give, or say which books, &c., shall give me all information necessary to enable a party of some twelve or fifteen Irish farming immigrants, who have a little money—capital, as well as labor—to decide as to which State they had better go to, and also as to the prices of lands there, the comparative advantage of buying from railway companies, or from the General Government, and of buying land near a market, and cleared or uncleared or remote from market, and which official of Government or railways they should communicate with, &c. I think Iowa or Southern Missouri is a good place for them to settle in."

It is a source of regret to us that our means of replying to such questions in a proper way are so limited. Those who hold new lands, whether railroad companies or others, appear to think an Agricultural Journal the last possible medium to be sought in communicating with the public, and with very few and rare exceptions, our advertising columns for ten years past will be searched in vain for any light on the subject. Corporations especially, instead of keeping the inducements they have to offer constantly before the agricultural public, seldom even take the trouble to furnish us with their publications. Under the circumstances, therefore, our reply can only be of a very general nature. Information as to lands open to settlement under the Homestead act, can best be procured, we presume, direct from the General Land Office at Washington. As to railroad lands, the only ones on which we now have any information at all, are those of the Illinois Central Company, and it would be well to address J. B. Calhoun, Land Superintendent, at Chicago, for particulars. In the States named by our correspondent, however, prices are doubtless more favorable, against which of course is to be offset (as a rule) the increased distance from market. From what we have learned of Southern Missouri, we presume there are excellent opportunities for agri-

cultural immigrants there. The selection would of course vary with the character of the farming preferred, whether grain raising, grazing, wool-growing, &c.; and, with the present demand for agricultural labor throughout the whole West, perhaps the best advice we could give, would be that the party should engage themselves with some established farmers in the localities they think most promising, for a season or two, until they become more familiar with peculiarities of climate, &c., and are better able to judge from actual trials as to their own ultimate preferences, than new-comers are likely to be at first.

REMARKS—The South Pacific Railroad under the efficient management of Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, is fast opening a most magnificent farming region, while the climate of that part of Missouri is delightful. The winters, and consequently the feeding season for stock, are very short and the lands are offered cheap to a desirable class of immigrants. The lands in Missouri can be had of the Railroad Company named above, and we believe the Agricultural College lands, at least a portion of them, are also located in alternate sections along this same line of road; these will in all probability also soon be placed on the market. Immigration into Missouri for the season just closing, was larger than at any previous time, and the new comers are generally well to do farmers. We hope our contemporary will send those asking advice to Missouri, among others, for the reasons assigned above.

THE AVERAGE AGE OF ANIMALS.—The average age of cats is fifteen years; of squirrels and hares, seven or eight years; of rabbits, seven; a bear rarely exceeds twenty years; a wolf, twenty; a fox, fourteen to sixteen; lions are long lived, the one known by the name of Pompey living to the age of seventy years; elephants have been known it is asserted, to live to the great age of four hundred years. When Alexander the Great had conquered Porus, king of India, he took a great elephant which had fought very valiantly for the king and named him Ajax, dedicated him to the sun, and let him go with this inscription: "Alexander, the son of Jupiter, dedicated Ajax to the sun." The elephant was found with this inscription three hundred and fifty years after. Pigs have been known to live to the age of twenty, and the rhinoceros to twenty; a horse has been known to live to the age of sixty-two, but averages twenty-five to thirty; camels sometimes live to the age of one hundred; stags are very long lived; sheep seldom exceed the age of ten; cows live about fifteen years, and are then killed for beef. Cuvier considers it probable that whales sometimes live a thousand years; the dolphin and porpoise attain the age of thirty; an eagle died at Vienna at the age of one hundred and four; ravens frequently reach the age of one hundred; swans have been known to live three hundred years. Mr. Maletton has the skeleton of a swan that attained the age of two hundred years. Pelicans are long lived. A tortoise has been known to live one hundred and seven years.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

CORRECTION.—In the article under the heading of "Plagiarism," in the RURAL of December 12th, 1868, the second and third verses, in the quotation from Maury, are given as one sentence, while it should read as follows: "In the severest drouth it never fails, and in the mightiest floods it never overflows. Its banks and its bottom are of cold water, while its current is of warm." This is precisely what Mr. Maury says, and doubtless is exactly what he meant. In appropriating this beautiful but erroneous paragraph the plagiarist retained all the errors, and added the word "shore," supposing that if Lieut. Maury could make "banks" out of water that he could make a shore out of the same material. A. D., Otto, Ind.

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Every Week at \$2 per year in Advance.

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To any person sending 4 names and \$8, I will send by mail, carefully packed in moss, 6 well-rooted Concord Grape Vines, or 6 Clinton, or 4 Hartford Prolific, or 4 Taylor's Bullitt (white), or 1 of each of them.

SMALL FRUITS FREE.

To any person sending 4 names and \$8, I will send 1 dozen St. Louis Red Raspberry, or 1 doz. Doolittle's Improved Black Cap Raspberry, or 1 dozen large Red Dutch Currants, or 1 dozen Houghton Seedling Gooseberries, or half a dozen of the celebrated Philadelphia Raspberry, or 1 doz. each of the Agriculturist, French's New Seedling and Russell's Seedling Strawberries. For double the number of names, double the amount of Premiums, and so on.

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For 20 subscribers at \$2 each, I will give, nicely packed and delivered at any Express Office or R. R. Station in St. Louis, 50 Choice Apple Trees, assorted varieties, or 50 Choice Peach Trees, or 25 Apple and 25 Peach Trees.

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A Wheeler & Wilson's Family Sewing Machine, worth Seventy-five dollars, for a club of Sixty. Or, A Wilcox & Gibb's Family Sewing Machine, worth Seventy-five dollars, for a club of Sixty.

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2 and 3 years old, 5 to 7 feet high, 1st selection,	25c	\$20
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Siberian Crab, Red and Yellow varieties,	40	30

Leading kinds grown: Early Harvest, Red June, Red Astrachan, Sweet June, Sweet Bough, Summer Queen, Summer Pearmain, Benoni, Keswick Codlin, Maiden's Blush, Rambo, Pennsylvania Red Streak, Fall Queen, Fall Pippin, Colvert, Fulton, Strawberry, Yellow Belleflower, Rawles' Janet, Winesap, Rome Beauty, Ben Davis, White Pippin, White Winter Pearmain, Missouri Keeper, Huntsman's Favorite, Large and Small Romanite, Northern Spy, Golden Russett, Tulpahocking, Domine, Willow Twig, Pryor's Red, Smith's Cider, Tallman's Sweet, Minkler, Baldwin, Wagner, Tompkins Co. King, Milam.

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1 year from bud, fine trees, 25c each; \$20 per hund.	
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Linnæus, 25 to 50c each, as to size, \$2 doz; \$10 hund.

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Large Purple Top, 2 years, strong, \$1 50 per hundred, \$3 00 per thousand.

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At SALISBURY, CHARITON Co., Mo., on West Branch of N. M. R. R.

The undersigned wishes to employ a good gardener for 1869.

An industrious gardener who can come well recommended, as to qualifications, HABITS, &c., single or married, can get steady employment at good wages. One who knows how to manage grapes and orchards preferred.
LUCIUS SALISBURY,
Salisbury, Chariton Co., Mo.
dec26-2m

ILLINOIS INDUSTRIAL UNIVERSITY.

OFFICE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
ILLINOIS INDUSTRIAL UNIVERSITY.
CHAMPAIGN, December 19, 1868.

The First Annual Course of Agricultural Lectures and Discussions, instituted by the Illinois Industrial University, will be held at the University, in Champaign, commencing Tuesday, January 12th, 1869, and continuing during four days of that and the subsequent week, with three sessions in each day.

This is intended to be an annual gathering of the Farmers of the State, and of their sons and daughters, for the purpose of discussing the best methods of Agriculture; and it is earnestly hoped that all who desire to improve our tillage, our crops and our live stock, will be present and lend a helping hand.

No charge is made for admission. The University provides a hall properly warmed and lighted, and pays the expenses of the gentlemen who have kindly consented to open the discussions.

Each lecture, essay or "talk," will be followed by a discussion on the same subject, in which all are invited to participate.

Dr. John A. Warder, author of American Pomology, will lecture daily from 4 to 5 P. M., on the subject of Fruit Culture.

Good boarding places can be had convenient, and at reasonable rates.

Railroads will be solicited to return persons in attendance at reduced rates. J. M. GREGORY, Regent.
W. C. FLAGG, Corresponding Secretary.

PROGRAMME.

Tuesday, January 12th.—Morning, 9 o'clock: Introductory Address, Agricultural Facts and Theories; Dr. J. M. Gregory. Afternoon, 2 o'clock: The Natural Sciences and Agriculture; Prof. W. F. Bliss. Evening, 7 o'clock: Relation of Chemistry to Agriculture; Prof. A. P. S. Stuart.

Wednesday, January 13th.—Morning, 9 o'clock: Meteorology; Prof. W. M. Baker. Afternoon, 2 o'clock: The Soils of Illinois; H. C. Freeman, of the State Geological Survey. Evening, 7 o'clock: Management of Soils; Dr. John A. Warder.

Thursday, January 14th.—Morning, 9 o'clock: Grass; Dr. L. D. Morse, Editor Journal of Agriculture. Afternoon, 2 o'clock: Corn; M. L. Dunlap, Agricultural Correspondent Chicago Tribune. Evening, 7 o'clock: Wheat; W. C. Flagg.

Friday, January 15th.—Morning, 9 o'clock: Potatoes; Jonathan Periam, Superintendent Practical Agriculture. Afternoon, 2 o'clock: Root Crops; Jonathan Periam. Evening, 7 o'clock: Agricultural Book-Keeping; Capt. Ed. Snyder, Instructor in Book-Keeping.

Tuesday, January 19th.—Morning, 9 o'clock: Orchard Fruits; Dr. E. S. Hull, of Alton. Afternoon, 2 o'clock: Grapes; Hon. Geo. Humann, of Hermann, Mo. Evening, 7 o'clock: Small Fruits; Samuel Edwards, of Lamolille.

Wednesday, January 20th.—Morning, 9 o'clock: Breeds of Cattle; Sanford Howard, Sec'y Mich. State Board of Agriculture. Afternoon, 2 o'clock: Horses; Col. N. J. Colman, Editor Rural World. Evening, 7 o'clock: Swine; Hon. Elmer Baldwin.

Thursday, January 21st.—Morning, 9 o'clock: Sheep; A. M. Garland, President Ill. Sheep Growers' Ass'n. Afternoon, 2 o'clock: Agricultural Botany; Assistant Professor Thos. J. Burrill. Evening, 7 o'clock: Vegetable Physiology and Economy; John H. Tice, Sec'y Missouri Board of Agriculture.

Friday, January 22d.—Morning, 9 o'clock: Rural Economy and Rural Life; Dr. J. M. Gregory. Afternoon, 2 o'clock: Fences and Hedges; Dr. John A. Warder. Evening, 7 o'clock: Timber Growing; O. B. Galusha.
Dec 26-3t.

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SNOW,

OR RAIN

Can penetrate where
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are used.
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E. S. & J. TORREY & CO.,
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We have a fine lot of strong, well-rooted vines, consisting of Concord, Hartford, Ives', Iona, Norton's Virginia, &c., which we guarantee to be inferior to none, and equalled by very few sent out by other parties. Price List now ready and sent to all applicants free. Address, E. A. RIEHL & BRO., Alton, Ill.
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Will be sent FREE on receipt of a stamp, by
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CHOICE SHORT HORNS.

SEND for Catalogue of the herd. Farm and residence adjoining Hartsburg (Toledo, Wabash and Western R. R.,) Macon county, Illinois.
May 23-1y. J. H. PICKRELL.

DAVISON'S THORNLESS**Raspberry Plants,**

For Sale by the Piece, Dozen, Hundred, or Thousand. For particulars address,

JOHN GAGE & SON,
Vineland, N. J.
Oct 10-3m]

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Two patents in Arms, with new shoulder motion, \$5 to \$125. Pamphlets sent free. Address
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LEWIS LOCKWOOD, Manufacturer,
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SEED POTATOES.

Harrison, \$2 per Bushel; Early York, \$1 50; also 6000 Evergreens, All Sizes.

Address, GEO. M. DEWEY,
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Send for a CATALOGUE of the PIKE COUNTY NURSERIES. A large stock of Extra one-year-old Apple Trees; Splendid two-year-old Pear Trees; Grape Vines, &c., &c. Address, STARK, BARNETT & CO.,
Oct 3-6m] Louisiana, Mo.

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750 Octavo Pages, 140 Beautiful and Useful Illustrations.

This book shows how the Farmer may double the value of his land; make three times as much out of stock; how three times the quantity of grain, hay, roots, and all farm crops can be raised from an acre, and how all the profits of the farm can be more than doubled. Every Farmer wants it. Every Stock Raiser wants it. Every Gardener and Fruit Culturist wants it. Farmers, farmers' sons, experienced book agents and others, wanted to take agencies in every community.

Commissions, \$100 to \$250 PER MONTH,

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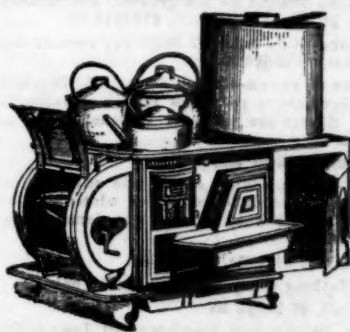
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FOR WOOD OR COAL,

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THE MASON & HAMLIN ORGAN CO.,

And will be sent post-paid to every applicant, containing announcements of

NEW STYLES OF ORGANS,**NEW INVENTIONS,**

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Reduced Prices.

Four-Octave Organ, Solid Walnut Case, \$50.
Five Octave Double Reed Organ, Five Stops,
Solid Walnut Case, Carved and Panelled, \$125.

Other styles at proportionate prices.

WAREHOUSES, 154 Tremont St., Boston; 596 Broadway, New York.

4tdec12

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At low rates. Send for Price List. E. R. MASON,
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PER MONTH, and large commissions paid, to sell Wonder of the World and and three other discoveries. Address, J. C. TILTON, Pittsburgh, Pa. d19-4t

THE OHIO FARMER,

Volume XVIII, for 1869.

ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.

S. D. HARRIS, } Editors.
GEO. E. BLAKELEE, }

THE GREAT WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL AND Family Paper,

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Between Locust and Olive Sts.,

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ST. LOUIS, MO.

Grape Vines for Sale.

A few thousand Norton's Virginia and Concord Layers, raised in my Vineyard, from ripe, bearing wood. NORTON'S VIRGINIA, at \$100 per 1000.

Concord, at \$60 per 1000.

Also, a few hundred two-year-old Plants of these varieties.

THEOD. ENGELMANN,
Mascoutah P. O., St. Clair County, Illinois,
Nov. 28-5t]

NEWS.

St. Louis will soon have a continuous line of railroad to the seaboard under one management, to-wit: Ohio & Mississippi, Atlantic & Great Western and New York & Erie. Very soon this road will be operated without change of cars. We hope this route will reduce their tariff to at least a reasonable rate. At present the charges on the several routes are very high, too high for many articles.

RAILROAD DISASTER ON THE IRON MOUNTAIN ROAD.—At a point between Quarantine and White Horse Stations, about fourteen miles from the city, two passenger cars were thrown down the embankment, and eighteen persons more or less severely injured, it is feared some fatally. No one was killed outright. The spreading of the track is assigned as the cause of the accident. Fortunately the ladies' car became detached, or the disaster might have proved much more serious.

The Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical Association has purchased 27 acres of land within a mile of Louisiana, Mo., which it is intended to fit up for Fair grounds. The price paid was \$5,400. This makes a second Association of the kind in Pike county, very creditable grounds having been fitted up at Ashley, eighteen miles west of Louisiana, several years since.

President Johnson has issued a universal Amnesty Proclamation, which secures a free, full and unconditional pardon to all persons, without exception, engaged in the late rebellion.

A Farmers' Institute will be held at Manhattan, Kansas, January —, under the auspices of the faculty of the State Agricultural College. Several lectures, and discussions upon the subject of such lectures, are on the regular programme. Chas. W. Murtfeldt will lecture on Stock and subjects connected with the dairy interest.

ILLINOIS MATTERS.—The next Legislature of Illinois will convene at Springfield, Jan. 4th. Among the candidates for the Speakership are Gen. John Cook and Col. Burgess. The State Supreme Court opens its next session in Springfield, on Tuesday next. On the day preceding the United States District and Circuit Courts will begin their regular terms.

CHICAGO, December 26.—During the past year 13,165 vessels have arrived at this port, and 13,218 have cleared. There have been 4,547 marriages and 341 divorces. There have been 414,740 hogs packed to date, against 587,100 at the same time in the previous season.

At Dubuque yesterday \$200,000 damage was done by fire to the works of the Northwest Metal Company.

QUINCY, ILL., Dec. 26.—Two freight trains on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad collided one mile east of Chillicothe, on Thursday morning at 2 o'clock. Both engineers, A. A. Cooper and H. Young, and both firemen were killed instantly. A young lady was found burned to a crisp, from the waist up, and one leg burned off. Almost the entire wreck was burned. The trains were running at twenty-five miles per hour when they collided. Both were behind time. None of the other train men were maimed.

RICHMOND, VA., December 26.—The distillery of R. Sedgwick, the plaster mill of Allen & Magruder and seven small dwellings on Third street were destroyed by fire to-day. The loss is estimated at \$30,000.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., Dec. 26.—Speaker Colfax and wife left for Albany this morning.

M. W. Perkins' powder mill, at Westfield, was destroyed on Thursday night by explosion and fire. The loss is said to be \$15,000.

LEAVENWORTH, KAN., Dec. 26.—Maj. Gen. Alfred Gibbs, of the U. S. Army, died suddenly, at Ft. Leavenworth, at one o'clock, to-day.

Cornelius Vanderbilt is reported to have made \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 out of his great corner in New York Central. His late movement is considered the greatest financial coup d'état Wall street has ever known.

LONDON, December 26.—The Burlingame mission commenced its deliberations yesterday, and so far, matters have been favorably discussed. The recent violence by a British man-of-war in Chinese waters came up for investigation. Mr. Burlingame held that such vessels should only be used to protect life and property when immediately exposed to danger, but otherwise, the subject became properly a matter of diplomatic reference to the ambassador at Peking before the act was done, or it might lead to war. It is thought the English government will also regard the matter in this light.

LONDON, December 27.—The Oriental question absorbs attention. That a conference will be held is not absolutely certain, but if held, similar results are predicted upon similar attempts at conciliation.

The Sublime Porte declines to yield its independence, or to make a sale of Crete, or to transfer that island to Egypt, or any other of the necessary bases for a compromise.

Lord Clarendon, as was to be expected, adheres to the old policy of England in regard to Turkey.

Napoleon and the Emperor of Austria are undecided in their views, while it is thought Prussia leans towards those of Russia.

It is certain that the Greeks count little on direct aid from Russia, but much on insurrections on the part of their own countrymen in Turkey.

The Cretans seem quite indifferent. A manifesto from Garibaldi tells them the proclamation of Spain, as a republic, will be a proclamation for a new movement on Rome, and exhorts them to be in readiness for the event.

ST. LOUIS GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE RURAL WORLD AND VALLEY FARMER, December 29, 1868.

It is not an unusual thing to write the markets dull about the holidays. In the first place, it is near mid-winter; highways and rivers are blocked by ice or snow, and produce is moved with difficulty, hazard and increased expense. Secondly, merchants are closing accounts, and there is a general settling up. Just now we are also on the eve of a new administration in national and State Governments. Speculators are rife to know what policy will be pursued by the incoming administrations, and everybody is anxious to stand firm under, if a crash should come. We do not wish in any way to assist in precipitating a crisis, nor do we anticipate any extraordinary stringency in monetary affairs; yet there is no denying that money is tight with merchants, we believe principally from the fact that every body is going to wait and see what every other body is going to do.

Notwithstanding all this, there is a very fair market for flour and the best quality of wheat brings good prices. Barley, as has been noticed, is being imported from Europe. Pork is in good request, and No. 1 hogs find a ready and quick sale. Beef cattle are in good supply, and about the same in quality, which is not extra. Since there is a more stringent examination of Texas stock in the East, the fact that many of them are sick, becomes more and more evident, as also this other fact that pleuro pneumonia has again a very strong foothold, in the New England States except Massachusetts, where they keep a sharp look-out for this insidious disease. Hogs are not in large supply, and we see no good reason why prices should not be fully sustained—all croaking to the contrary notwithstanding.

This market is now well supplied with good mutton, which is at once the healthiest and cheapest meat offered. We quote:

Tobacco—Market very quiet; no change in prices. **Flour**—No demand for low grades. Best quality, firm; xxx \$9 50; choice family, \$10@11 50.

Rye Flour—City quiet, \$7 50@7 75; country dull and nominal, \$6 25@6 75.

Buckwheat Flour—In fair demand, \$9 75@10; pure is very hard to get, there is such a chance for stealing. Shorts are not near so much worth as buckwheat.

Corn Meal—\$3 50, and dull.

Wheat—Fancy winter, strong and stiff. Spring rather weaker. Small lots of choice winter changed hands at \$2. Some fancy red on private terms. Prime \$1 75@1 80.

Corn—Mixed 64@65c, white 65c.

Oats—Nothing doing, white 58c, barley oats 70c.

Rye—Dull, \$1 20@1 25.

Barley—Market firm—receipts small, Iowa spring \$1 85; choice \$2; choice Missouri \$2 15.

Hay—Market firm; loose No. 1 \$20 per ton delivered.

Hemp—Nothing doing. Prices nominal.

Hogs—Receipts for 48 hours only 2242 head. Market firm, and good to choice find ready sale. We quote light to heavy at \$8 75@9 75 per 100 lbs gross. Sales 240, average 200, at \$8 75; 164, average 205, at \$8 90; 212, average 225@264, at \$9@9 40; 30, average 235 at \$9 50; 50, average 270, at \$9 50; 40, average 275, at \$9 90.

Dressed Hogs—Average 200 lbs net, at \$10 per 100 lbs.

Lard—Prime and choice in tierces, at 17 1/2@17 3/4, and in kegs at 18@18 1/2 per lb.

Tallow—Sale 23 tons at 11 1/2c per lb.

Hides—Choice Western stiffer, with good demand at 22@22 1/2c for dry flint; 18@19c for dry salt, and 11

@ 11 1/2c for green do. Common southern flint dull at 21@21 1/2c.

Dried Fruit—Offerings small, and generally inferior; choice scarce and wanted. Apples at \$1 75; fair do at \$2 16; peaches on private terms.

SALT—In demand. Domestic \$3 20 per bbl; do in sacks \$2 50; G. A. \$2 85@2 90 per sack.

SEEDS—Flax firm at \$1 90; hemp nominal at \$1 25@1 35, and clover at \$8; Timothy firm but slow, at \$2 60@2 75.

BEANS—Castor nominal at \$2 35—few offering. Medium to choice white scarce and firm at \$3 25@3 75 and \$4@4 75; damaged and common dull at \$1 75@1 85.

APPLES—Selling from store at \$4 75@5 for best assorted varieties.

BUTTER—Low. Very plenty and market dull. We quote: Common Western in kegs and tubs 25@28c; medium do nominal at 29@34c; prime to choice tub 35@39c; extra do, in small way, at 40@41c; choice roll, 37@39c. New York, 50c, at retail.

Eggs—Inactive at 32@35c, s. e. and recounted; preserved, nominal at 25@27c.

POULTRY—We quote at \$3@3 25 for chickens, and 14@16c for turkeys. Supplies equal demand.

GAME—Quiet. We quote: Quail, \$1 25; prairie chickens, \$3 50@4; rabbit, \$1@1 25; venison, 6@9c; saddles, 10@12c; turkeys, each, \$1@1 20.

FEATHERS—Prime live geese, 70@73c.

WOOL—Nominal. We quote: Tub-washed, 49@51c; do and picked, 51@53c; Seco-washed, 33@41c; unwashed, 28@33c.

FURS, ETC.—In demand. We quote: Raccoon, 15@65c; Mink, 37c@38c; Otter, \$1 50@37; Opossum, 5c; Fox, 40@50c; Wild Cat, 30@40c; Muskrat, 15@18c; Skunk, 10@30c; Wolf, \$1 50@33; Bear, \$1@55; Beaver, per lb, \$1@1 50; Deer, 35@45c; Sheep Pelts, 30c@51.

COFFEE—Rio, choice, 25c; fair to prime, 23@25c; skimmings, 20@22c; Java, 35@38c.

SUGAR—Porto Rico, 13 1/2@14c; Cuba, 12 1/2@13 1/2; Muscovado, 12@13c; Louisiana, 12@14c; Demarara, 15@15 1/2c.

CHEESE—Western Reserve, 18@18 1/2c; factory, 19@19 1/2c; fancy New York do 19 1/2@20c; Cheshire, 19@19 1/2c; English dairy, 20@22c; English Gloucester, 14 1/2@20c.

FISH—Mackerel, No. 1, new, \$23; No. 2, new, \$20 50; No. 3, \$13 50@15 50; herring, No. 1, \$9 50@10 50; do per box, 55c; do scaled, 65c.

St. Louis Live Stock Market.

The supply of beef cattle is equal to the demand. Prices are without noticeable change. Our market is supplied with the best of mutton. Hogs are not as plenty as our packers wish they were, and prices well sustained, though our packers think they must come down. We think our patrons need entertain no fear in this direction.

The highest price paid for choice beef is \$6, while many change hands at \$5 to \$5 50, and others are sold for so much per head. Hogs quoted above. Sheep from \$2 to \$4 per head.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, December 28.

Eastern Exchange—Dull; 1/2 off buying; par selling. **Flour**—Quiet; sales at \$5 50@7 for low grades to choice spring extra. Wheat—Moderately active on speculative account; No. 1 firmer \$1 20@1 22; No. 2 opened at \$1 13, subsequently weakened and fell to \$1 11; No. 2 since 'Change \$1 11 1/2. Corn—Fairly active; new shelled 48@50c, closing firm at 50c; old quiet; No. 1 nominal at 65c cash and seller the month; No. 2 sold at 57@58c; kiln-dried 57@59c; nothing doing this p. m. Oats—Dull; 46 1/2@47c, closing dull at 46 1/2@46 3/4. Rye—Quiet and lower; sales of No. 1 at \$1 12@1 14; No. 2 \$1 10@1 12. Barley—Dull; holders firm; 2@2 1/2c higher; sales No. 2 at \$1 53@1 56, closing quiet at \$1 53@1 55. Highwines—Dull and a shade firmer at 93c for free closing, buyers 92c and sellers 93c. Mess Pork—Quiet and nominal at \$26 75@27; spot sales \$27, seller's option, February and March. Small lots country packed sold at \$25 75 for mess, and \$27 for clear. Lard—Active at 16@16 1/2 for steamed; closing at inside. Short rib middling 13c. Looser rough sides 12 1/2c; loose green hams 13 1/2c; sweet pickled hams 14 1/2@15c. Dressed Hogs—Opened firm and quiet at \$10 50@11 for heavy, and \$10 25@10 50 for light; subsequently declined a shade and became more active at \$10 50@10 75, dividing on \$2 00. Live—Opened quiet and steady. Sales at \$9 50@9 for fair to medium; \$9 25@9 50 for good to extra. Prime closing dull and weak. Beef Cattle—Dull, neglected and nominal. Receipts for past 48 hours—12,452 bbls flour; 10,393 bus wheat; 27,700 bus corn; 24,232 bus oats; 6,972 bus rye; 450 bus barley; 8,863 hogs. Shipments—14,744 bbls flour; 20,879 bus wheat; 42,998 bus corn; 7,001 bus oats; 8,140 bus rye; 3,435 bus barley; 8,208 hogs.